

Community Issues Report

FOURTH QUARTER 2010

Meredith Corporation
WHNS FOX Carolina

01/5/10

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COMMUNITY ISSUES
10/1/10 – 12/31/10

Consumer, Health & Safety

An interest in knowing about events that impact our daily lives. A need for information about how to be wise shoppers of goods and services and how to live healthy and safe lives.

Crime

A need to know about crime and law enforcement activities and a concern for personal safety.

Education

A concern about the money and skills needed to improve schools and an interest in improving student's quality of education.

Environment

A concern for how the environment is affected by human activity.

Government

An interest in how government affects our personal lives

Jobs/Economy/Growth

An interest in the local and national economic outlook and the impact growth has on our communities

Quality of Life

An interest in things that improve one's satisfaction with life.

The following pages list representative samples of program segments from The Ten O'clock Newscast, The News at 6:30 Newscast and The Morning Newscast during this quarter that respond to our ascertained issues. Each segment was 20 seconds to 3 minutes in length (except as otherwise reported).

The following pages also identify issue-responsive episodes of programs, which are listed under the appropriate issue.

WHNS also broadcasts public service announcements, news and weather cut-ins as needed to inform local community of breaking news and emergencies.

Attachments



Consumer, Health & Safety

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
FOURTH QUARTER 2010**

Problem/Need: **CONSUMER, HEALTH & SAFETY**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Saturdays (airs weekly)	6:30am	TODAY'S HOMEOWNER

Description: A half-hour weekly television show that features information on how to maintain and improve your home, both inside and out. The approach to home improvement helps everyone from the experienced do-it-yourselfer to the first time homeowner. Projects are taken from start to finish in each weekly episode. (30:00)

October 6, 2010

The Department of Health and Environmental Control announced dates for flu clinics in Anderson County on Tuesday. According to the department's website, the walk-in clinics start in Anderson on Oct. 20 and end in Belton on Nov. 15. The schedule follows: Oct. 20 - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Anderson Recreation Center; Oct. 25 - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Anderson County Health Department; Oct. 27 - 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - First Baptist Church, Williamston; Nov. 1 - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Boulevard Baptist Church, Anderson; Nov. 3 - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Siloam Baptist Church, Easley; Nov. 4 - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Iva First Baptist Church, Iva; Nov. 4 - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Pendleton First Baptist Church, Pendleton; Nov. 15 - 9 a.m. to noon - Chiquola Baptist Church, Hone Path; Nov. 15 - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - First Baptist Church, Belton; For more information about the clinics, visit the department's website at scdhec.gov

October 13, 2010

A Tennessee food company is recalling eight lots of breaded okra because it contains milk not shown on the label. Pictsweet in Bells, Tenn., is calling back specific lots of 32-ounce breaded okra: those beginning with the product codes 1400B, 1550B, 1660B, 1730B, 1870B, 2030B, 2350B and 2500B. The company initiated the recall after finding the dairy information was left out when packaging was redesigned. People who are allergic or severely sensitive to dairy products could risk illness if they consume the product. The company said no illnesses or allergic reactions have been reported to date. The products were distributed to retailers in the Southeast.

October 15, 2010

The Pictsweet Company of Bells, TN, today announced a voluntary recall of certain codes of store brand products containing frozen Green Peas after the company learned that some of the packages may contain glass fragments, which may cause injury if ingested. Products subject to this recall were distributed only to Kroger stores in the Southeast United States and Walmart stores throughout the United States and include the following items: Kroger 12 ounce Green Peas (UPC 11110 89736); Production Codes of 1440BU, 1440BV, 1440BW, and 1600BD; Kroger 12 ounce Peas and Carrots (UPC 11110 89741); Production Codes of 1960BD and 1960BE; Great Value 12 ounce Steamable Sweet Peas (UPC 78742 08369); Best by Dates of July 20, 2012; July 21, 2012; Great Value 12 ounce Steamable Mixed Vegetables (UPC 78742 08026); Best by Date of July 15, 2012. No injuries have been reported to date. While no injuries have been reported, Pictsweet is advising the public that product from these packages indicated above should not be consumed. Consumers who have purchased the above product should return them to the place of purchase for a full refund. Consumers with questions may contact The Pictsweet Company at 1-800-367-7412, extension 417 toll-free from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time, Monday through Friday.

October 18, 2010

Some roads in downtown Greenville will be closed for repairs over the next week. City officials said that work started on Sunday and will be completed by Oct. 25. The closure schedule follows: Oct. 17-18: West Broad Street from River Street to Main Street, South Laurens Street from West Broad Street to West Court Street; Oct. 17: South Main Street from West Court Street to Broad Street; Oct. 18: Intersection of South Main Street and Broad Street; Oct. 19: West McBee Avenue from River Street/Richardson Street to Main Street, Intersection of Main Street and Washington Street; Oct. 20: South Main Street from West Court Street to Broad Street, Intersection of South Main Street and Broad Street; Oct. 24: West McBee Avenue from River Street/Richardson Street to Main Street, Intersection of Main Street and Washington Street; Intersections will only be closed from 7-9 a.m. on the dates listed. Motorists can expect delays when traveling on the affected streets, officials said.

October 20, 2010

Southwest Airlines said Wednesday that it will begin service at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport on March 13. During a news conference on Wednesday morning, the airline announced that it will fly to Washington, D.C., Chicago, Nashville, Houston and Orlando from the airport. According to Southwest, introductory, one-way fares for the five destinations are as follows: Baltimore/Washington, D.C.: \$79; Nashville: \$59; Orlando: \$79; Chicago: \$99; Houston: \$99. Reservations can only be made through the airline's website at southwest.com. The company also said that passengers who book travel for March 13 or later between Wednesday and midnight Friday will find fares as low as \$30 for select flights. The airline also said that it will fly Boeing 737 airplanes out of GSP. "Big planes, plus little fares, equals success for Southwest Airlines in Greenville-Spartanburg," said David Ridley with Southwest. According to Southwest, the airline operates more than 3,200 flights daily, making it the largest domestic carrier. It flies to 69 cities in 35 states and the average airfare is about \$132. A similar announcement was made in Charleston on Wednesday morning.

October 28, 2010

Nissan is recalling 2.14 million vehicles worldwide including the popular March and Myra subcompacts for an ignition problem that may stall the engine - its third-largest recall ever. No accidents have been reported that are suspected of being caused by the defect, according to Yokohama-based Nissan Motor Co. The recall affects cars in the United States, Europe and Japan. A problem was found in an ignition-system part called the relay for vehicles produced from August 2003 through July 2006, including small cars like the March, Cube and Note, and about a dozen other models, such as the Tiida sedan, Titan pickup and Infiniti QX56 luxury model. In extreme cases, the engine will stall and won't be able to start, said Nissan spokesman Mitsuru Yonekawa. Of the recalled vehicles, nearly 835,000 were produced in Japan, 762,000 in North America, and 354,000 in Europe. Nissan, which is allied with Renault SA of France, did not disclose a cost for the recall, but it may be relatively cheap requiring just a half hour to fix. The cars were produced in Japan, the U.S., Great Britain, Spain, China and Taiwan. The massive numbers involved in recent recalls are linked to cost-cutting strategies that result in the same parts being used in many models. Toyota Motor Corp., the world's biggest automaker, has suffered a spate of recalls over the last year, totaling more than 10 million vehicles worldwide for sticky gas pedals, floor mats that can trap accelerators, brake fluid leaks and other problems.

October 28, 2010

The Consumer Product Safety Commission and Dollar Tree Stores are recalling 682,000 battery-operated Halloween lanterns that can overheat, the agency announced Thursday. "This recall involves plastic Halloween-themed lanterns designed to resemble a pumpkin, ghost and skull," a statement from the CPSC says. The lanterns are about 6.5 inches tall and were sold in orange, white and black. The bulb in the lanterns can overheat, posing fire and burn hazards to consumers, according to the agency. No injuries have been reported. The lanterns were sold from August to October at Dollar Tree, Dollar Bill\$, Occasions, Deal\$ and Dollar Tree Deal\$ stores nationwide. "Consumers should take the recalled lanterns away from children immediately, remove and properly discard the batteries and return the lanterns to the store where purchased for a full refund," the CPSC said. The model number -- 954439-13096-003-1005 -- is printed on a label on the bottom of the lanterns.

November 2, 2010

Two Greenville County cities passed measures Tuesday that allow for the sale of alcohol on Sundays. Greer passed the measure with a vote of 2,572 to 1,895. In Simpsonville, the referendum passed with a vote of 2,397 to 1,648. The measures differ slightly in both cities. In Greer, the measure will allow for the sale of alcohol by bars and restaurants on Sundays, but retail stores, like grocery stores and convenience stores will still be prohibited from selling the beverage. In Simpsonville, the new rule allows anyone with a permit to sell alcohol during the week will be allowed to sell the beverage on Sundays. In both cities, businesses must apply for special licenses to sell alcohol on the first day of the week.

November 8, 2010

Evidence of salmonella has been found at an Ohio egg farm that's received financing from the owner of an Iowa egg farm that was behind a massive recall earlier this year. Cal-Maine Foods Inc., the nation's biggest egg seller and distributor, said it is recalling 288,000 eggs the company had purchased from supplier Ohio Fresh Eggs after a test showed salmonella at the Ohio farm. No illnesses have been reported. According to Cal-Maine Foods, the Ohio Fresh eggs were distributed to food wholesalers and retailers in Arkansas, California, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. In a statement from company officials, Ohio Fresh Eggs said the farm had held back eggs from the Croton, Ohio, barn where the salmonella was found. However, through discussions with the FDA, the company discovered that some eggs from that barn were mistakenly sent to a distributor. "Ohio Fresh Eggs sincerely regrets the error made on our farm, and we apologize to our customer and to consumers who may have purchased the eggs," the officials said. "We are redoubling our efforts to ensure thorough and ongoing training of our workers so that this situation is not repeated." Cal-Maine Foods said the FDA told them about the positive sample. Earlier this year, salmonella was found on two Iowa egg farms, Wright County Egg and Hillandale Farms. The two companies recalled 550 million eggs in August when the products were linked to as many as 1,600 illnesses. Austin "Jack" DeCoster owns Wright County Egg and has lent money to Ohio Fresh Eggs. Ohio officials said DeCoster hid behind other farmers to get permits for the company in 2004. The permits listed two men who had put up just \$10,000 apiece while DeCoster had pumped \$126 million into the four farms, according to testimony in an administrative proceeding there. At the time, DeCoster had already been labeled a "habitual violator" of environmental laws in Iowa. Ohio officials yanked the permits after learning about that, but an environmental appeals panel overturned that decision. DeCoster

has often tangled with the government. He has paid millions of dollars in state and federal fines over at least two decades for health, safety, immigration and environmental violations at his farms.

November 10, 2010

North Carolina health officials said that cancer is now the leading cause of death in the state. The North Carolina Division of Public Health said Tuesday about 17,500 people in North Carolina died of cancer in 2009. That surpassed heart disease, which had ranked as the state's No. 1 killer for at least the past decade. State officials said they are working to support local health departments and partners in prevention, early detection and treatment of cancer. They say lung, throat, colorectal and breast cancer were the top killers. Heart disease deaths have been steadily declining. State experts said people may be increasingly aware of the signs and symptoms of heart attacks.

November 10, 2010

Most local, state and federal offices will be closed Thursday to observe Veterans Day. The holiday, originally known as Armistice Day, was first observed on Nov. 11, 1919, and declared a national day of observance by President Woodrow Wilson, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs' website. The holiday was meant to mark the end of World War I, or what was then called The Great War. The name of the holiday was changed to Veterans Day on June 1, 1954, by the 83rd Congress, to reflect the service of those who had fought in World War II and the Korean War, the website said. Veterans Day is now marked on Nov. 11, regardless of the day of the week. Banks will also be closed Thursday.

November 15, 2010

Five people were rushed to a local hospital Monday morning to be treated for carbon monoxide poisoning, firefighters said. The incident happened at a home on Blue Ridge Road about 5 a.m. Firefighters said the family had lost power to their home and were running a generator. They said the generator began blowing exhaust into the home, causing the problem. There was no immediate word on the family's condition.

November 17, 2010

Four times as many cases of whopping cough have been reported this year compared to the average each year, according to Buncombe County health officials. Whooping cough, known medically as pertussis, is a bacterial infection of the respiratory tract, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Symptoms of the illness include a runny nose, sneezing, a severe cough that may be accompanied by a "whoop" sound or coughing until one vomits. The Health Department said Wednesday that between Aug. 1 and Nov. 16, 40 cases of pertussis were reported, which brings the total for the year to 44. Most of those cases have been in school-aged children, the department said. Pertussis is most serious for infants under 6 months old, health officials said. They said the illness can lead to pneumonia or death in that age group. The Health Department said the vaccine that protects against pertussis, as well as tetanus and diphtheria, known as Tdap, is recommended for all children more than 12 years old and adults who are in close contact with infants or older adults.

November 17, 2010

The Food and Drug Administration issued warning letters Wednesday to four manufacturers of alcoholic energy drinks often consumed by college students, saying the caffeine added to their beverages is an "unsafe food additive." FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg said the combinations of caffeine and alcohol in the drinks is a public health concern and can lead to "a state of wide-awake drunk." Evidence has shown their consumption has led to alcohol poisoning, car accidents and assaults, she said. The government could eventually seize the products if the companies continue to make and market them. The companies have 15 days to respond to the letters and either explain how they will take their products off the market or defend their drinks as safe. The government came under increasing pressure as college students have been hospitalized in recent months after consuming the drinks. The FDA said experts have raised concerns that the caffeine in the drinks can mask a person's feeling of intoxication, leading to risky behavior. Many of those who consume the drinks are underage drinkers. In response to such incidents, four states - Washington, Michigan, Utah and Oklahoma - have banned the beverages. Other states are considering similar action. White House Drug Policy Director Gil Kerlikowske said Wednesday that the FDA's quick action to decrease consumption of the drinks is critical. "These products are designed, branded, and promoted to encourage binge drinking," he said. With the FDA decision imminent, Phusion Projects, which manufactures the popular Four Loko, announced late Tuesday that it would reformulate its drinks and remove the caffeine. The company's statement said it was reformulating the drinks after unsuccessfully trying to deal with "a difficult and politically-charged regulatory environment at both the state and federal levels." "We have repeatedly contended - and still believe, as do many people throughout the country - that the combination of alcohol and caffeine is safe," said Chris Hunter, Jeff Wright and Jaisen Freeman, who identify themselves as Phusion's three co-founders and current managing partners. Four Loko comes in several varieties, including fruit punch and blue raspberry. A single-serving 23.5-ounce can sells for about \$2.50 and has an alcohol content of 12 percent, comparable to four beers, according to the company's website. The FDA said it views Phusion Projects' announcement as a positive step, but officials said they have not yet heard directly from the company about its timeline for taking the drinks off the market. The FDA also issued warning letters to Charge Beverages Corp., New Century Brewing Co. and United Brands Company Inc. Michael Michail, president and founder of United Brands, expressed disappointment in the ruling. He said he is not aware of any incidents involving his company's Joose alcoholic caffeine drink. As of Wednesday, a Four Loko Facebook page had more than 41,000 fans, and a similar Joose page had more than 27,000 fans. On Four Loko's page, students mourned the demise of their favorite drink. Many blamed the government for

overreaching and some said they would make their own concoctions. Last year the FDA notified more than two dozen manufacturers of caffeinated alcoholic beverages that it never had specifically approved the addition of caffeine to alcoholic drinks and began studying whether it was unsafe and should be outlawed. The agency noted the mix's growing popularity among college students and its potential health and safety issues. Wednesday's letters focused on seven drinks made by four manufacturers, but Deputy Commissioner Josh Sharfstein said he expects the agency's message to resonate. "We expect these warning letters to be read across the industry," he said. Robert McKenna, Washington State Attorney General, praised the FDA move after nine Central Washington University students were sent to a hospital in October after a party where the students drank Four Loko. He said the drinks' popularity has dangerously skyrocketed in the past two years. "We can look around over the last couple of years and see something has changed, something is different," he said. "What we are seeing now is striking."

November 29, 2010

Highways in the region were crowded again Sunday as the holiday weekend drew to a close. FOX Carolina's Dana Wachter caught up with some drivers on the busy travel day who said their treks home were not too bad. Most drivers said that police were on the highways in full force. They said more patrol cars were seen controlling speed, especially in the metro-Atlanta area. Travelers said that last Tuesday and Wednesday were harder days to drive, with more cars on the road. Sunday, they said, the roads were not very crowded. "The best part is you go for a holiday and see family," said Alan Greenley, one driver. "We were able to get out and see a little bit more of this country," said David Meyer, a driver coming back from Tennessee. The Highway Patrol said that statistics from the holiday travel should be released by midweek.

November 29, 2010

The weekend after Thanksgiving often is when people begin to put up their Christmas trees and holiday lights, but firefighters said it's important to beware of fire dangers that may come with the decorations. Boiling Springs Deputy Fire Marshal Trent Cason said people should keep a few things in mind when looking for a live Christmas tree this year. First, Cason said, people should feel the limbs of tree. He said they should bend and spring back, and that the needles should not fall off. "Never buy a tree that has a lot of needles lying around it," Cason said. Cason said the most important thing is to keep live trees watered daily. He said people should cut about five inches off the bottom of the trunk, so that the tree better absorbs water. He warned to keep trees, as well as space heaters, about three feet away from combustible surfaces, like upholstery, furniture and presents. "We understand that there's going to be presents and whatnot under the tree," Cason said. "All we ask is that the tree's not powered up when you're not at home." LED lights produce less heat, which is better when they are used as decorations on trees, Cason said. He said people should also make sure the tree stand is large enough to hold the tree upright, to prevent it from falling if an animal or person brushes against it. Cason said people should also avoid overloading electrical circuits. He said having several plugs or extension cords on the same outlet can generate a lot of heat, which could start a fire. He said that using power strips is better, but warned against piggy-backing, or chaining two or three power strips together. Cason said if holiday lights have a bulb out, don't use them. The strand could have a short, which could spark a blaze. It takes about 45 seconds for a 6-foot Christmas tree to burn, Cason said. He said that fake Christmas trees are typically fire retardant, which means they are safer. Cason also urged people to check smoke detectors each month, to assure they are working properly.

December 1, 2010

South Carolina public health officials hope to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS as part of World AIDS Day. The Department of Health and Environmental Control said the state is observing the day on Wednesday. DHEC STD/HIV director Janet Tapp said the department is offering free or low-cost rapid tests for HIV. Community groups are also holding candlelight vigils and other events to raise awareness and remember those who have died from AIDS. Tapp said the theme for World AIDS Day 2010 stresses the importance of learning the facts about HIV and taking action to help prevent it. More than 14,000 people in South Carolina are known to be living with HIV or AIDS, Tapp said.

December 6, 2010

Americans are getting a sour holiday surprise at the gas pump, where prices are at the highest they've been in over two years. They may even hit a national average of \$3 a gallon by January. Although supplies remain plentiful and gasoline demand has diminished since September, retail gas prices are rising because oil prices are at the highest levels since October 2008. The two-week advance paused on Monday as benchmark oil for January delivery lost 23 cents at \$88.96 a barrel in midday trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. A stronger dollar kept a lid on prices. Since oil and other commodities are priced in dollars, a stronger dollar makes them more expensive for buyers who use other currencies. The national average for a gallon of regular gasoline hit \$2.951 on Monday, according to AAA, Wright Express and the Oil Price Information Service. That's nearly 10 cents higher than a week ago and 32 cents more than a year ago. "The U.S. has never spent Christmas with a \$3-a-gallon average price for fuel," OPIS said. It's the highest national average since Oct. 19, 2008, according to OPIS. Prices have risen 30 to 40 cents from year-ago levels in nearly half the states, and many motorists already pay \$3 a gallon or more. For example, prices range between \$3.055 a gallon to \$3.519 a gallon in Washington, California, Delaware and Maine. Drivers in Nevada, Oregon, North Dakota, Illinois and Wisconsin, among others, pay between \$2.96 a gallon and \$3.027. Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico and Texas have some of the cheapest pump prices, from \$2.682 a gallon and \$2.812 a gallon. If oil prices linger in the current range near \$90 a barrel, the national average could reach \$3 before the end of the year, several analysts say. "We're within spitting distance right now," said

Stephen Schork, an energy analyst and publisher of The Schork Report. "Whether we get there by the end of the year or by the end of January, as far as consumers concerned, we're there already by a psychological standpoint." For every penny the price at the pump increases, U.S. consumers pay an additional \$4 million, according to Cameron Hanover energy analysis agency. On an individual basis, a motorist who bought 10 gallons of gas Monday, on average, paid about \$3.20 more than a year ago. Schork expects energy demand to waver with prices between \$2.90 a gallon and \$3 a gallon. If oil reaches \$100 a barrel, retail gas prices will be around \$3.30 a gallon or higher, which would be a "significant obstacle" for motorists, he said. In other Nymex trading in January contracts, heating oil lost 0.88 cent at \$2.4786 a gallon, gasoline fell 1.65 cents to \$2.3356 a gallon and natural gas rose 13.1 cents to \$4.480 per 1,000 cubic feet. In London, Brent crude dropped 16 cents to \$91.26 a barrel on the ICE futures exchange.

December 6, 2010

Americans are getting a sour holiday surprise at the gas pump, where prices are the highest they've been in over two years. They may even hit a national average of \$3 a gallon by January. Although supplies remain plentiful and gasoline demand has diminished since September, retail gas prices are rising because oil prices are at the highest levels since October 2008. The two-week advance continued on Monday as benchmark oil for January delivery rose 19 cents to settle at \$88.96 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. A stronger dollar kept prices in check for most of the session. Since oil and other commodities are priced in dollars, a stronger dollar makes them more expensive for buyers who use other currencies. The national average for a gallon of regular gasoline was \$2.958 on Monday, according to the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration. That's about 10 cents higher than a week ago and 32 cents more than a year ago. EIA said drivers in California pay the most, at an average \$3.216 a gallon. Regular averages \$2.802 a gallon in Gulf Coast states. Pump prices in major cities range from \$2.669 a gallon in Denver to \$3.241 in San Francisco. Gas stations in New York City charge an average \$3.077 a gallon for regular. It's \$3.066 in Chicago, \$3.050 in Miami and \$3.139 in Seattle. "The U.S. has never spent Christmas with a \$3-a-gallon average price for fuel," Oil Price Information Service said. The national average now is the highest since October, 2008, according to OPIS, and if oil prices linger near \$90 a barrel, it could reach \$3 before the end of the year, several analysts say. "We're within spitting distance right now," said Stephen Schork, an energy analyst and publisher of The Schork Report. "Whether we get there by the end of the year or by the end of January, as far as consumers concerned, we're there already by a psychological standpoint." For every penny the price at the pump increases, U.S. consumers pay an additional \$4 million, according to Cameron Hanover energy analysis agency. The 10-cent a gallon increase from a week ago cost consumers about \$40 million. On an individual basis, a motorist who bought 10 gallons of gas Monday, on average, paid about \$3.20 more than a year ago. Schork expects energy demand to waver with prices between \$2.90 a gallon and \$3 a gallon. If oil reaches \$100 a barrel, retail gas prices will be around \$3.30 a gallon or higher, which would be a "significant obstacle" for motorists, he said. In other Nymex trading in January contracts, heating oil lost 1.17 cents to settle at \$2.4757 a gallon, gasoline fell 1.04 cents to settle at \$2.3417 a gallon and natural gas rose 13.9 cents to settle at \$4.488 per 1,000 cubic feet. In London, Brent crude added 3 cents to settle at \$91.45 a barrel on the ICE futures exchange.

December 7, 2010

When you sit down at a dinner table you can usually find a salt and pepper shaker, but what most know as table salt is being replaced with sea salt. "Actually, I see it everywhere I go," said Danielle Austin, a shopper. "Truthfully, I think it's all a marketing and advertising gimmick." FOX Carolina stopped by a local grocery store and found sea salt labels on peanuts, cashews, potato chips and pretzels. There's also a fast food restaurant advertising its new french fries with sea salt. Some nutritionist said sea salt is being marketed as a more natural, healthier alternative to iodized salt. However, according to dietitians with the Mayo Clinic, the basic nutritional value is about the same. The difference is in taste and texture and, dietitians said, table salt contains iodine, which is a nutrient we need. Dietitians said that sea salt contains little to no iodine, but does have calcium. "Whatever works at that moment to get that person hooked in to buy their products," Austin said. "As far as I know, salt's not good, so whether it's sea salt or iodized salt, I tend to stay away from it." No matter which type of salt one prefers, dietitians said people should only consume between 1,500 and 2,300 milligrams of sodium a day.

December 8, 2010

Nestle said that a worker at its Gaffney plant was injured early Wednesday morning. Company spokeswoman Roz O'Hearn said that an employee suffered an injury to her hand after it was caught in a piece of equipment at 3:20 a.m. O'Hearn said the company is investigating the accident to make sure it does not happen again. The worker was treated at an area hospital and released, O'Hearn said.

December 8, 2010

A private company launched a spacecraft into orbit and then, in a historic first, guided it back to Earth on Wednesday in a bold test for NASA that could lead to the first commercial space station supply run next year and eventual astronaut rides. The capsule named Dragon, built by Space Exploration Technologies Corp., or SpaceX, splashed down into the Pacific Ocean three hours after launching from Cape Canaveral. NASA immediately offered congratulations. "Splashdown on target. Mission is a success!" the company announced via Twitter. Until now, only governments had accomplished re-entries from orbit. The Dragon rode into orbit aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket. It circled the world twice, then parachuted into the Pacific. It was aiming for a spot roughly 500 miles off the Mexican coast. Recovery crews were quickly on

the scene, putting floats on the spacecraft. SpaceX's chief executive officer, Elon Musk, raised his arms in victory when the three main parachutes deployed, a company spokeswoman said. He oversaw everything from Mission Control at the company's headquarters in Hawthorne, Calif. The spacecraft carried thousands of patches for company employees; no official payload was required for this test. An Army nanosatellite hitched a ride, though, in a technology demonstration. NASA is hiring companies like SpaceX to haul supplies to the International Space Station following next year's retirement of the space shuttle. Taxi trips for astronauts may follow. Space station commander Scott Kelly kept abreast of the day's developments via NASA's Mission Control, which beamed up live launch coverage for him and his two Russian crewmates. Excited about the success, Kelly asked to be tuned in to the post-flight news conference. He told a reporter earlier in the day he would gladly fly into space on a commercial rocket, "if that's the path we're proceeding on." The flight had been scheduled for Tuesday, but was delayed to repair cracks in the upper-stage rocket nozzle. This was the first flight under NASA's Commercial Orbital Transportation Services program, as well as the first flight of an operational Dragon spacecraft. SpaceX's first flight of a Falcon 9 rocket, in June, carried a capsule mock-up that deliberately burned up on re-entry. Last month, the Federal Aviation Administration issued its first re-entry license to SpaceX, paving the way for Wednesday's flight. "Getting this far, this fast, has been a remarkable achievement," said NASA's acting director of commercial spaceflight development, Phil McAlister. He stressed that this is a test flight and that spaceflight is "very, very difficult." "The purpose of the test flight is to learn. So as long as we're learning, and we have a clear path for demonstration flight two, we would consider that successful," McAlister told reporters earlier this week. SpaceX - created by PayPal co-founder Musk - intends to begin station deliveries by the end of 2011. He said he could be launching station crews within three years of getting the go-ahead from NASA. NASA already is relying on Russia to ferry U.S. astronauts to and from the space station. It's an expensive arrangement: \$26 million per person this year, rising to \$51 million next year, and to \$56 million in 2013. Ideally, NASA wants multiple companies to take over the job of cargo and crew transport. The effort has taken on increased significance, McAlister said, since the working lifetime of the space station was extended to at least 2020. SpaceX currently has a \$1.6 billion contract with NASA for 12 supply runs. Orbital Sciences Corp. of Virginia has a \$1.9 billion contract for eight. SpaceX President Gwynne Shotwell said her company has poured more than \$600 million into the test flight effort so far and received \$278 million from NASA. She took aim at critics, some of whom don't trust companies to provide the same level of crew safety as NASA. "I bristle a little bit at the whole concept of 'cutting corners,'" she said this week. "Just because it's faster doesn't mean it's more risky." NASA has just two shuttle missions remaining, in February and April. The space agency hopes to get funding for a third and final flight next summer, to restock the orbiting lab in case the commercial launch companies fall behind.

December 8, 2010

Many Verizon Wireless customers were unable to access the mobile internet early Wednesday morning because of a network glitch, the company said. The "technical glitch," which occurred during network maintenance, stopped Verizon users from being able to access mobile websites from about 1:40 to 5 a.m. ET on Wednesday, said Jeffrey Nelson, a Verizon Wireless spokesman. The outage affected a "large part of the country," but not all Verizon customers, Nelson said. Verizon users were still able to send and receive data on Verizon's 3G network, he said, but could not access websites through a phone's mobile browser. Reports of a "nationwide" Verizon outage hit tech blogs and Twitter on Wednesday morning. Engadget had this to say on the subject: "We've heard from a bunch of folks this morning that Verizon's 3G network is experiencing a slight bout of disconnectedness, causing a great deal of grief and discombobulation around the country. Just sit tight, we're sure engineers are engineering solutions as we type this, and will update you as soon as things have been rectified." Some Twitter users reported losing internet service on their phones. "Dear #Verizon, please let your customers know if and when a #3G outage is happening. It would save me the stress of thinking my phone died.." wrote one user, named @bigred89. Others, however, wrote that they were able to connect to the network without trouble. @wscato wrote: "Verizon 3G appears to be back up in Charlotte, NC." By mid-morning Wednesday, Verizon was declaring the problem resolved on its customer support Twitter feed. In response to questions on Twitter, Verizon employees told customers to restart their mobile phones by powering them off and then turning them back on.

December 10, 2010

Greenville County fire officials said improper [storage](#) of household chemicals caused a fire that displaced 34 people at a Greer apartment complex Thursday night. The fire happened at the Ashton Woods Apartments on Pelham Road about 11:30 p.m. Firefighters said that building 25 was engulfed in flames by the time they arrived at the scene. They said three other fire departments were called in to help battle the blaze. "I'm very grateful," said Boiling Springs Fire Chief Steve Graham. "The firefighters did an excellent job of stopping the fire and limiting the amount of damage for the volume of fire they encountered. We're certainly proud of the working relationship we have with our surrounding fire departments to help when you have a fire of this magnitude." The Red Cross said that 14 volunteers went to the scene just after midnight to help the families find a warm place to sleep. The organization said that a shelter was set up at Shannon Forest Presbyterian Church on Garlington Road was closed Friday afternoon. "I'm too shocked right now," said Lynn Detrow, who lived in the building. "I don't care about where we are going tonight. I don't care about anything but everybody being [safe](#)." "We always take care of families, whether it's in a shelter situation or whether they are going to be placed in a hotel in the local area," said Brian Scoles, of the American Red Cross. "It's just unfortunate that we have such a large number of families that were affected." The Red Cross said it has assisted a record number of victims this year. The organization said that it is in need of financial donations. Those can be made at upstateredcross.org or by calling 864-271-8222. Several residents said that their pets were caught in the fire. Firefighters were seen bringing out cats and dogs after the fire was under control. A firefighter was treated at a local hospital for a broken tailbone. A resident was also treated at an area hospital for non-life-threatening injuries.

December 13, 2010

Stocks are ending mostly flat after expectations that a tax-cut package will pass the Senate kept them higher for much of the day. The tax-cut compromise brokered by the White House and Republicans was scheduled for its first Senate vote late Monday. The S&P [500](#) index eked out a new 2010 high for the fourth time in four days. The index rose 0.06 point to 1240.46. Other indexes took a late afternoon spill. According to preliminary calculations, the [Dow Jones industrial average](#) rose 18, or 0.16 percent, to 11,428, having been up as many as 70 points earlier. The Nasdaq composite fell 12, or 0.5 percent, to 2,625. Falling shares and rising ones were almost evenly matched on the New York Stock Exchange. Volume was 961 million shares.

December 15, 2010

AnMed officials said some Upstate hospital [employees](#) resigned Wednesday because they refused to get flu shots. Anderson Area Medical Center is among a growing number of hospitals requiring all employees to get a [flu shot](#) each year. Wednesday was the deadline for employees to get their shots. AnMed said that 99 percent of their staff received the shots by the deadline. However, the hospital said, six people resigned. Four of those people left because of the flu shot policy, officials said. Bertha Hunter is one worker who filed a lawsuit over the hospital's policy. She is seeking monetary compensation for damages. Hunter's attorney, Charles Griffin, said, "(The policy) clearly oversteps one's constitutional right to privacy and the right to be left alone." Griffin said his client, and others, shouldn't have to get the shot if they don't want to, and that the flu shot is not always effective. AnMed Health CEO John Miller said, "The flu shot is a thoroughly tested, effective vaccine. It's our best defense against spreading the flu to those we care for and those we love." More than 3,300 employees chose to receive the shot, the hospital said. Fifteen were exempt for medical reasons. According to an AnMed, only four employees resigned over the flu shot policy. Griffin said some of the resigned employees will likely bring separate lawsuits against the health care system.

December 16, 2010

Hundreds of crashes, closings and delays were reported Thursday morning thanks to freezing rain and snow that made roads slick in parts of the western Carolinas. More than 100 organizations changed their schedule because of the weather by Thursday morning. Western Carolina University said that exams set for 8:30 a.m. will be rescheduled. The school said faculty will work with students to determine a time to take their exams. Anderson County offices were operating on a two-hour delay Thursday morning. According to the Highway Patrol's website, more than 230 crashes were reported just before 9 a.m. Thursday. One of the worst was on the Interstate 385 bridge that passes over Interstate 185 in Greenville County. According to FOX Carolina's Dan Bubany, dozens of [cars](#) were either crashed or stopped on the bridge because of a sheet of ice that had developed on the overpass. He said that salt and sand trucks responded to the area. He said this allowed tow trucks to move in and remove the crashed or stalled cars. A winter weather advisory was still in effect for much of the western Carolinas until 10 a.m. A winter storm warning remained in effect for Mitchell and Yancey counties and the mountains of McDowell County until noon. Stay with FOX Carolina and foxcarolina.com for the latest weather information.

December 23, 2010

The national average for a gallon of regular gasoline topped \$3 a gallon on Thursday, just in time for the holiday driving trips millions of Americans will take this week. The average pump price rose about a cent and a half a gallon overnight, to \$3.01, according to AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service. That's 14 cents more than a month ago and 43 cents higher than a year ago. It's the first time ever that the average retail price has been above \$3 a gallon at Christmas. A recent study from business management firm PortiaGroup, using data from OSIP, says consumers will likely pay about \$1.35 more a gallon during the 12 days of Christmas (from Dec. 25 to Jan. 6) than during the same period of 2008-2009. The rising price of crude oil has been pushing up the price of gasoline for the past month, and the trend continued Thursday. Benchmark crude rose 78 cents to \$91.26 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange in midday trading. That's the highest point in two years. Optimistic economic news helped push oil prices higher on Thursday. The Commerce Department said that consumers spent more in November than the month before. And the Labor Department said that the number of people applying for unemployment benefits for the first time fell by 3,000 last week to 420,000. Investors hope that an improving economy will mean increasing demand for oil and gas. The PortiaGroup-OSIP study says gas pump prices are taking a bigger bite out of household spending: an average 7.4 percent of median household income compared with 6.5 percent last year and 4.2 percent in 2008. If the pattern of higher oil prices persists, the average share of income spent on gasoline could rise to almost 10 percent by spring, with pump prices around \$3.75 or more a gallon. While gasoline prices are climbing, the price of one of the main heating sources in the nation - natural gas - is falling. It's down about 11 percent in the past two weeks. On Thursday natural gas lost 6.4 cents at \$4.088 per 1,000 [cubic feet](#) on the Nymex. Much of the nation has shivered through below-average temperatures in [December](#), and on Thursday the Energy Department said the nation's natural gas supplies shrank last week by 184 billion cubic feet. But there is so much natural gas in storage - almost three and a half trillion cubic feet, or more than 8 percent more than the five-year average - that prices have stayed relatively low. Some weather forecasters think winter's icy grip will ease next month, which could keep natural gas prices down. "Slightly decreased heating demand in January is expected along a large swath of the country from Texas through the Mid-Atlantic region and north into New York and New England," said Chris Kostas, senior power and gas analyst with consultants Energy Security Analysis Inc. "The softer-than-normal power demand should also reduce gas demand for power generation along the East Coast in January," Kostas added. Natural gas is used to generate about 20 percent of the nation's electricity. In other

Nymex trading, heating oil rose 1.55 cents to \$2.5440 per gallon and gasoline gained 0.75 cent at \$2.4320 per gallon. In London, Brent crude rose 63 cents to \$94.28 on the ICE Futures exchange.

December 23, 2010

A South Carolina law barring people from taking out more than one payday loan at a time has led borrowers to seek other loans that advocates for the poor also call predatory. Those alternatives include unsecured 6- and 12-month loans that come with high [interest rates](#), or loans that require a car title as collateral. The loans often are made by companies that used to offer payday loans but have changed their business in the wake of the new law. The Center for Responsible Lending said that those types of loans and the payday variety trap poor borrowers in a downward financial spiral of expensive [credit](#). Lenders defend themselves and say they offer a service borrowers need. Outstanding payday loans declined about 10 percent during 2009 as 245 locations closed.

Attachments



Crime

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
FOURTH QUARTER 2010**

Problem/Need: **CRIME**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Saturdays	8:00pm	COPS
Saturdays (airs weekly)	8:30pm	COPS
Monday – Friday	1:00pm	COPS
Monday – Friday	1:30pm	COPS

Description: COPS follows law enforcement officers as they answer calls and deal with the subjects and victims involved in the complaints and crimes. (30:00)

Saturdays (airs weekly)	9:00pm	AMERICA'S MOST WANTED
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Description: AMERICA'S MOST WANTED is hosted by John Walsh. The show profiles fugitives and wanted criminals who are being sought by federal, state, or local authorities. The program gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. (60:00)

Saturdays (airs weekly)	2:30am	MISSING
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Description: Missing is a weekly half-hour reality series featuring actual cases of missing individuals, both adult and juvenile, from across the United States. (30:00)

Monday – Sunday	10:00 pm	FOX CAROLINA'S MOST WANTED
Monday – Friday	5:00a-9:00am	

Description: The FOX Carolina's Most Wanted airs during the Ten O'clock News on various nights Monday thru Sunday and The Morning News Monday thru Friday. Each segment profiles locally wanted criminals and gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. Each segment is 45 seconds.

October 5, 2010

Greenville County deputies said they are investigating whether robberies at two Hispanic stores are related. Deputies said that two people wearing ski masks and carrying guns rushed into the La Esperanza store on Howell Road near East North Street just after 9 p.m. Investigators used a K-9 unit to track the robbers, but investigators said they likely had a getaway car waiting for them. Deputies said the store had a security video system installed, but it was not working. Lt. Tim Ridgeway, of the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, said it is possible that the same people are responsible for the robbery of the La Especial Bakery on Wade Hampton Boulevard the night before. A clerk at La Especial told FOX Carolina she thinks the same people also robbed the bakery a couple of weeks ago. Anyone with information about any of the robberies was asked to call Greenville County Crime Stoppers at 23-CRIME.

October 5, 2010

Greenville County deputies said that they arrested 52 people during a prostitution sting last month. Deputies said they conducted the sting for several hours on Sept. 30 in several locations throughout Greenville's southwest side. Investigators said that 46 people were charged with first-offense prostitution and six others were charged with loitering to engage in prostitution. Deputies said that some were also charged with drug violations, including possession of crack cocaine, simple possession of marijuana, possession of cocaine, possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. A slideshow of those deputies said were arrested can be found to the right.

October 5, 2010

An expelled TL Hanna High School student is facing serious charges after deputies said he threatened to shoot a current student and then showed up on campus, prompting a brief lockdown. LaJames Glass, 17, is charged with unlawful use of a phone, disturbing school, stalking and resisting arrest. So far, eight teenagers, including an expelled Belton-Honea Path student, have also been arrested in connection with the lockdown. Investigators said that deadly threats were made against the current TL Hanna High School student by voicemail and text

messages. Deputies said the threats came from Glass over the weekend. They said before the bell rang Monday morning, the teenage girl who received the threats took them to school officials. "The school resource officer actually had just found out about the incident over the weekend, involving the threat, moments before the former student walked into the school that morning," said Chad McBride, of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office. The school resource officers who spotted Glass chased him down and arrested him a street away from the school. "He threatened harm against her and also threatened to shoot her," McBride said. "So, obviously they take those threats seriously. Especially when he had no business being on the campus and then suddenly showed up." Deputies said Glass showed up with six other TL Hanna students and an expelled BHP student. They said all of them rode to campus in the same car. "They were aware of his intentions of confronting the student that he made threats against and, of course, they facilitated that by giving him a ride up to the school," said McBride. All of them have been arrested and charged with disturbing school. Those who were at least 17 years old went before a judge in a bond hearing. Glass faces 15 years in jail if found guilty of stalking and resisting arrest. He is being held at the Anderson County Detention Center on \$12,500 bond. The adult students were released on bond. The juveniles were turned over to their parents after a Department of Juvenile Justice hearing.

October 5, 2010

The defense for Edwardo Wong rested Tuesday at his murder trial in the shooting death of a North Carolina state trooper two years ago. Wong is accused of killing Trooper Shawn Blanton during a June 2008 traffic stop. On Tuesday, the defense called its last witness without the jury hearing from Wong himself. The prosecution then called its first rebuttal witness, Nicole Wolfe, a forensic psychologist who interviewed Wong twice last summer. The defense argued that her report contains information that is not related to traumatic brain injury and that the information will prejudice the jury against Wong. On Monday, the defense showed video testimony from Cindy Swan, Wong's mother, who said her son had behavior issues ever since he fell from the family's fifth-floor apartment in Brooklyn when he was 4. Swan said that the family moved to Florida soon after the fall, and Wong's behavior problems caused him to fail in school. Wong's parents divorced when he was 12. Swan testified that she fought to keep her other two children but let Wong go with his father. She said that is a decision she regrets. "I wasn't strong enough at the time to stand up to my husband at the time, to get him the help he needed," Swan said. "I'm not proud of the route he took." Swan told prosecutors that she did not know that her ex-husband was part of the Chinese mafia for most of their marriage. If convicted, Wong faces the death penalty.

October 14, 2010

Central police said they have a person of interest in connection with a bomb that exploded under a car at an apartment complex. Residents of the Summit at Cross Creek Apartments said the blast rattled windows early Thursday morning. Andy MacDonald, a resident, said he was in his kitchen when the device detonated. "It was basically like a shotgun that went off," MacDonald said. "I heard this loud explosion and it sort of rumbled. I ran outside and there was a lot of smoke in the air. It smelled sort of like gunpowder or fireworks." Investigators said someone planted a bomb near the back tire of a 2007 Honda Civic. They said the blast blew off the bumper and scattered debris throughout the parking lot. "We heard it all the way up here," Central Police Chief Kerry Avery said. The Central Police Department is about 500 feet away from the apartments where the explosion happened. Avery said moments after the blast, dozens of 911 calls were made. "We've been questioning people at the complex," Avery said. "The owner of the vehicle said he was sound asleep in his apartment right in front of it and never woke up." Avery said what is left of the explosive device is now being analyzed in an effort to determine what kind of bomb it was. "They don't want to call it one thing and it ended up not being that," Avery said. Despite the blast, MacDonald said he's really not that worried. "It's not something I'm necessarily scared about, but it's not something you also expect," MacDonald said. Anyone with information about the bomb is asked to call Central police.

October 15, 2010

The sentencing phase of a man convicted of killing a North Carolina state trooper two years ago will begin Friday. After nearly seven hours of deliberation, a North Carolina jury found Edwardo Wong guilty Thursday of killing North Carolina Trooper Shawn Blanton during a 2008 traffic stop. On Thursday morning, the judge gave the jury instructions and then let them begin their deliberations. About 30 minutes later, jurors returned to the courtroom to ask the judge to explain the charges. About three minutes later, the jury began their deliberations again. Later, jurors asked for to diagrams from the night of the shooting. Just before 5 p.m. the jury returned with the first-degree murder conviction, as well as guilty verdicts on several lesser charges including attempted first-degree murder, robbery with a firearm, possession of a firearm by a felon and guilty to manufacture sell or deliver marijuana. On Wednesday, jurors watched dashcam video again from the night of the shooting. Prosecutors said the video shows Wong made a decision to kill. "He had time to think about what he was going to do with those guns when he first saw Trooper Blanton," said Assistant District Attorney Jim Moore. "He had the time to premeditate when he saw Trooper Blanton turn on his blue lights." During closing arguments, prosecutors told the jury Wong made several choices that led to murder because he had a rap sheet and did not want to go back to jail. "The motive? Not go to jail," Moore said. The prosecution's claim was in an effort to prove malice, intent, and premeditation in order to get a conviction on Wong's charge of first-degree murder. However, Wong's defense team said the evidence does not support that conviction. "(Wong) is going from pleading his case, with his hands behind his back, to shooting a man," said Wong's attorney, Martin Melrose. "You must decide whether in that space of time there was planning and deliberation." Because of that, Wong's defense team said the jury must think about second-degree murder, a lesser conviction, when someone is guilty, but there was no malice. "This is a second-degree murder case," Melrose said, "no matter how hard they want to say it's something else." Wong faces the death penalty. A sentencing phase is expected to begin Friday and could last at least two weeks.

October 18, 2010

A man is dead after he interrupted a robbery at his home Monday morning, Greenville County deputies said. The death happened at 49 Valley Road at 7:49 a.m., deputies said. Deputies said that the 36-year-old man had returned to his home after taking some children to school when he interrupted a robbery. They said the man was shot and was pronounced dead at the scene. Investigators said they searched the surrounding area for the three robbers, but were not able to find them. Greenville County Schools said that Heritage Elementary School and Northwest Middle School were locked down about 8:30 a.m. because of the search. That lockdown was lifted about 9:15 a.m. Deputies said that the victim's uncle was at the home during the robbery and that he is being interviewed by investigators. The man's name has not yet been released. Stay with FOX Carolina and foxcarolina.com for the latest on this developing story.

October 20, 2010

Simpsonville police said that two people have been found dead inside a home that was the scene of a standoff Wednesday afternoon. The coroner said Tillman Bazzle, 58, and Traci Lynn Grant, 45, were found dead from an apparent murder-suicide inside their home. Officials said the couple was married. Chief Charles Reece said that officers were called to 210 Garrison Road at 3:32 p.m. Reece said that arriving officers talked to some people near the home who said they had heard gunfire earlier. He said the officers backed off and called in the Greenville County SWAT team. He said that the SWAT team went into the home and found two bodies. The chief said that it appears the deaths are part of a murder-suicide. The coroner said Bazzle and Grant leave behind a 12-year-old daughter.

October 25, 2010

Mallory Long, a student at the University of South Carolina Upstate, said she thought she was dreaming early Monday morning. "He was standing over me and then he was walking out the door and he came back and stood over me again. He did that for about five minutes until I realized that I wasn't asleep," she said. Long said she wished she had been dreaming when she woke up to a stranger standing in her bedroom around 2:30 a.m. on Monday. "He had a black hoodie on, and black pants," she said. She said she couldn't move for several minutes because she was paralyzed by fear. "He just sat there and talked. He sounded like a stoner, really. He sounded like he wasn't all there," she said as her voice trembled. He got in through an unlocked back patio door of her College Suites apartment in Spartanburg County. "I shot up in my bed and he's like, 'Oh sorry, wrong apartment,' and just runs out the door," she said. Long said she was still scared to move, but eventually grabbed her phone, called her roommate and told her to call 911. "No one was hurt, thank goodness, very fortunate," said Tony Ivey, a spokesman with the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office. "We responded out there and had our K-9 team search the area, but weren't able to pick up a track," he said. Detectives were patrolling the area after the incident and managers at the complex posted fliers as a reminder to lock all doors. "Always lock your doors. And then if you have some type of an outside light, especially if you live on the ground level, that you can burn during the hours of darkness outside those doors, that would certainly be a good thing to do," Ivey said. Mallory Long said she will do just that. She is also getting an extra lock and an alarm system installed. "I'm grateful nothing happened," she said. Investigators said the intruder left Long's apartment and went to another apartment at the same complex through another unlocked patio door. Once inside, detectives said he touched a woman on her leg while she was sleeping, she screamed and he ran off. If you have any information, call Spartanburg Crimestoppers at 58-Crime.

October 26, 2010

Investigators with the Greenville County Sheriff's Office have made a third arrest in connection with the slaying of Wallace Cruell Jr. Cruell was found fatally shot in his 49 Valley Road home on Oct. 18, according to a police report. Lamar Dontray Williams has been charged with murder in connection with Cruell's death, said Lt. Shea Smith with the Greenville County Sheriff's Office. Williams was arrested in Lexington County Sunday evening and transported to Greenville County Monday evening, Smith said. He was being held in the Greenville County Detention Center with no bond. The first two suspects in the case were arrested Friday. Scottie Lee Butler and Charles Jeffery Dornberg II were arraigned Saturday on murder charges and remain in the Greenville County Detention Center under no bond. Additional arrests are expected as the investigation continues, Smith said. Smith said the sheriff's office would not discuss any potential motive in the case.

October 26, 2010

Abbeville police are searching for an inmate who escaped custody by jumping out of a patrol vehicle after a routine court appearance. William Edward "Ray Ray" Ray was in custody at the Abbeville Detention Center on charges of attempted criminal sexual conduct and second-degree burglary when he was brought before a municipal court judge for a preliminary bond hearing Tuesday, according to the Abbeville City Police Department. As he was being transferred back to the detention facility after the hearing, Ray was able to jump out of a patrol vehicle, police said. Police searched for six hours and never found him. On Tuesday evening, officers said Ray stole an SUV from a person he knew who lived on First Street in Abbeville. Investigators said Ray took a 2006 white Chevy Trailblazer with South Carolina license tag DMC 230. They said the truck has a Clemson tiger paw on the back window. Ray, 32, is described as a light-skinned black male, about 5 feet 8 inches tall and 175 pounds. Anyone with knowledge of Ray's whereabouts is asked to call the Abbeville Police Department at 864-366-5832.

October 27, 2010

A woman was taken to the hospital Wednesday morning after two men broke into her home, Anderson County deputies said. The break-in happened at a home on North Major Road about 3:15 a.m. Deputies said they called in search dogs and combed the area near the woman's home, but did not find the men. Investigators said they do not have many clues at this point because the woman was too shaken up to talk. Anyone with information on the burglary can call Anderson County Crime Stoppers at 231-STOP.

November 2, 2010

A man has been arrested after he burned an American flag at the Transylvania County Courthouse on Tuesday, deputies said. Deputies said that 54-year-old William Orr II brought a flag attached to a bamboo pole to the courthouse. They said he took a trash container from in front of the courthouse, placed it on the ground next to the courthouse's flagpole and placed his flag inside it. Investigators said that Orr sprayed his flag with lamp oil and set it on fire. They said the fire Orr set caused the lanyard holding up the three flags at the courthouse to melt and fall onto his burning flag. Orr was arrested near the courthouse. He was charged with malicious use of explosive or incendiary to damage property, burning of personal property and misdemeanor larceny. He was being held at the Transylvania County Detention Center on \$10,000 bond.

November 10, 2010

There has been a rash of copper thefts at vacant homes in the Spartanburg area, police said Monday. Police said that thieves are swiping everything from copper wires out of the walls to copper pipes from crawl spaces. "You see somebody out there working on the house, they work on it for two weeks and put the sign back up that says it's for rent and that means, guess what, it's ready to go again so they go back by and hit the same house," said Lt. Regina Nowak, of the Spartanburg Public [Safety](#) Department. Police said they are passing out fliers with crime prevention tips to help curb the problem. One of those recommendations is removing "for rent" and "for sale" signs from homes unless there are [surveillance cameras](#) at the location. The best tip, police said, is for neighbors to keep their eyes peeled for suspicious activity. "If you see somebody pulling a city trashcan down the street, and it looks like it's loaded with stuff, call 911," Nowak said.

November 10, 2010

A pastor wanted in connection with a slaying in Missouri was arrested in Spartanburg County on Tuesday, deputies said. David Love, 50, who is a former pastor in Independence, Mo., is in jail in Spartanburg County, awaiting an extradition hearing on a murder warrant. KCTV 5, FOX Carolina's sister station in Kansas City, reported that Love resigned his post at the New Hope Baptist Church in April after authorities searched the church for clues in the death of 42-year-old businessman Randy Stone. Stone was found shot in the head inside his insurance office in March, KCTV 5 reported. The television station reported that Stone was a member of the church led by Love when he was killed. The church said in a statement released Tuesday night that it has cooperated with law enforcement during the investigation and would ask for the prayers and support of the community as the ministry moves forward. Stone's friend, Dan McGee, told KCTV 5 they hope his killer is brought to justice. "They'll continue to investigate this, and I hope we'll find who did this," said McGee. Love said during a hearing Wednesday afternoon that he will fight extradition. The Associated Press reported that Love has been indicted by a Missouri grand jury on the charges of first-degree murder and armed criminal in connection with Stone's death.

November 17, 2010

Greenville man was charged Wednesday in connection with the stabbing death of a woman Monday night. The stabbing happened at 22 Crestmore Drive about 11:30 p.m. Investigators said that Chloe Smith, 48, showed up at John Harden Smith's home and the two began to fight. They said that John Smith then stabbed Chloe Smith several times. Deputies said that John Smith also suffered stab wounds but they did not elaborate on how those wounds were inflicted. John Smith was charged with murder and possession of a weapon during the a violent crime. Deputies said that the pair were not related, but were acquaintances. John Smith's bond hearing was canceled Wednesday night because officials said he had to go to the hospital. An investigator with the Greenville County Sheriff's Office said Smith complained about chest pains earlier in the day, but at first had refused medical treatment. No word on his condition or when his bond hearing will be rescheduled.

November 18, 2010

An Easley man was arrested by Mauldin police last Friday in connection with an Internet predator sting. According to Attorney General Henry McMaster, Bobby Joe Nations Jr., 47, was charged with two counts of criminal solicitation of a minor. Warrants accused Nations of asking for sex from a person he believed to be a underage girl. In reality, Nations was chatting with an undercover Mauldin police officer. Nations was released on \$20,000 bond. If convicted, Nations faces up to 20 years in prison.

November 18, 2010

Anderson County Sheriff John Skipper said Thursday that law enforcement broke up a multi-million-dollar drug ring during the multi-agency Operation Reno 911. Skipper said that since 7 a.m. Wednesday, 32 people have been arrested in connection with a group that supplies most of the powder and crack cocaine in Anderson County and also counties in Georgia. He said the drugs have an estimated street value of \$30 million. The sheriff said that his office began working with the Anderson Police Department and the State Law Enforcement Division last year. Skipper said that before the operation ended, the Abbeville County Sheriff's Office, Honea Path Police Department, Clemson Police Department and Seneca Police Department also joined in the effort. Skipper said the operation ended with raids, searches and arrests in Anderson, Abbeville, Honea Path, Seneca and Columbia. In addition to the arrests, Skipper said, about more than \$1 million in cash, eight vehicles, 14 guns and 4.5 kilograms of cocaine were seized. Skipper said he expects additional arrests to be made.

November 19, 2010

Officials canceled an Amber Alert early Friday for a missing 12-year-old girl, after she was found safe in the Atlanta area. Julieta Yoselin was located around 12:30 a.m. Friday in a suburban area, according to Clemson police. The man she was with, 26-year-old Jesus Aldana Lozada was arrested on a kidnapping charge. He is being held at the Fulton County Detention Center awaiting an extradition hearing. SLED and the local FBI assisted the Clemson City Police Department in the investigation. A team from the Clemson City Police Department traveled to Atlanta to bring Yoselin back to South Carolina. She was reunited with her father overnight. Yoselin is in good condition, police said. Clemson police said that Julieta Yoselin was last seen at 10:30 p.m. Monday. A friend of Yoselin told police that they were walking down U.S. Highway 76 in Clemson when they felt that a car was following them. The friend told police that the two ran behind the CVS Pharmacy at the Intersection of Highway 76 and U.S. Highway 123, then they became separated. Another witness told police he saw the children run across Highway 76, and then saw a gray or silver four-door, compact car make a U-turn on the same road. Police said they believed Yoselin was with Lozada, and that they could be traveling toward Atlanta. Lozada's last recorded address is in the Seneca area, police said. Police said that Lozada does not have a violent history, but it was still unclear whether Yoselin left with him willingly. "She's a 12-year-old young lady, as far as I'm concerned, a little girl, and since 10:30 last night, she hasn't been seen," said Clemson Police Chief Jimmy Dixon on Tuesday. "We need to find her."

November 26, 2010

Authorities in Georgia were looking to question a person of interest a day after the Thanksgiving killing of two young women from South Carolina. The bodies of Angela Brooks and Nancy Cushman were found by a passer-by early Thursday. Authorities in Richmond County, which shares the state line with South Carolina, say the 19-year-old Brooks was from Warrenville, S.C., and Cushman was 17 or 18 and also from the area. Authorities want to question 26-year-old Travis Lorenzo Berrian. They said he's not a suspect, but they think he might have information about the deaths. Authorities were expecting autopsy results Friday. The Richmond County Sheriff's Office said the women were shot but has declined to say where or how many times.

December 7, 2010

Daniel High School basketball coach Tony Christie is on administrative leave after being arrested Monday, according to the School District of Pickens County. According to an arrest warrant, Christie was charged with second-degree assault and battery. The incident report said that on Oct. 25 Christie inappropriately touched a 16-year-old female student. "These types of allegations take time to investigate," said Tim Morgan, of the Pickens County Sheriff's Office. "We want to make sure we do a thorough job and we want to be accurate." "As is the district's general practice, when appropriate, employees are placed on administrative leave," the school district said in a statement to FOX Carolina. "This typically occurs when allegations or concerns have been brought to the administration's attention." The school district said that junior varsity boy's basketball coach Billy Gibson will be taking over the varsity boy's basketball team while Christie is on leave. Christie also played basketball at Clemson University from 1995-99, where he appeared in 115 games and finished his career with 733 points, according to the school's website. Stay with FOX Carolina and foxcarolina.com for the latest on this developing story.

December 7, 2010

The vice principal of a Weaverville school has been suspended with pay after she was charged with [shoplifting](#). According to an incident report, 39-year-old Sarah Cooley took clothing worth about \$280 from the Belk store on South Tunnel Road on Friday. Cooley, an assistant principal at North Windy Ridge Intermediate School, has worked for [Buncombe County Schools](#) since July 2003.

December 8, 2010

Nearly two dozen people have been arrested in a drug roundup in Newberry County. Newberry County Sheriff Lee Foster said Wednesday that 22 people have been arrested as part of a yearlong investigation by his deputies, local police and the State Law Enforcement Division. Foster said more than 80 warrants had been issued against a total of 38 people on charges of distributing crack cocaine, marijuana and other

drugs. The sheriff said deputies are still looking for 16 more people. Foster said the people who have already been arrested have bond hearings in Newberry on Wednesday.

December 11, 2010

Four people have been charged in the slaying of a man and attempted murder of his sister at a Spartanburg home last week. On Friday, the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office arrested Charvus Tarrel Nesbitt, 22; Hazell Stoudemire, 16; and Teddy Lamont Byers, 32; on one count each of murder, attempted murder and possession of a weapon during a violent crime. A fourth suspect, 26-year-old Jonathan Lee Petty, has also been charged in the case but has agreed through his attorney to surrender to authorities, sheriff's officials said. Daniel Tremayne Landrum, 27, was pronounced dead at the scene following Tuesday night's shooting at the home on Wrengate Street. His sister was wounded in the incident. The woman's two children have been placed with family, deputies said.

December 13, 2010

Jury selection begins Monday for the trial of Dennis Temple, who's accused of kidnapping a Clemson University student and then raping her in storage unit. Oconee County deputies said they were called to All-Safe Storage at 600 Shiloh Road in Seneca at about 1 a.m. May 10. They forced their way into one of the storage units and found the woman. She told deputies that she had been delivering items to a unit on Sunday night when she was abducted, sexually assaulted, bound and locked inside the unit in which she had been found. Deputies said the woman was able to free herself and call 911. Temple turned himself in to authorities May 11. He was charged with kidnapping, first-degree criminal sexual conduct and grand larceny of a motor vehicle. He has been held in jail since his arrest with bond set at \$200,000 bond. Temple has made numerous appearances in court since his arrest. He has asked to represent himself and also asked a judge to recuse himself from the case.

December 15, 2010

A Greenville man was arrested Tuesday morning after he was caught trying to steal copper from the old Greenville Braves stadium, Greenville police said. Police said that an officer noticed a suspicious truck in the parking lot of the stadium at 1 Braves Avenue about 4:43 a.m. They said the officer found several pieces of copper and tools, including a cutting torch, in the bed of the truck, but the driver of the truck was missing. Officers then used a search dog which found the driver, identified as 40-year-old Robert Peters, hiding in some trees near the front of the stadium. They said Peters was carrying three flashlights, metal cutting shears, a socket tool, two sockets and a pair of gloves when he was arrested. Peters was charged with possession of burglary tools, unlawful entry into enclosed places and malicious damage to real property to obtain nonferrous metals.

December 15, 2010

Police said a chase through Greenville on Wednesday ended with the arrest of four people along Interstate 85. Sgt. Jason Rampey, of the Greenville Police Department, said an officer had pulled over a car on Laurens Road. He said that when the officer got out of his car, the driver of the stopped car backed up toward the police officer and then sped away. Rampey said the officer then began chasing the car through Greenville, but the chase eventually made it onto I-85. He said that the driver then got off the interstate near Highway 153, ran through a chain-link fence and onto a frontage road. He said that when the car stopped, four people jumped out. A perimeter was set up and search dogs and a helicopter were called in to find the people, Rampey said. Rampey said that two of the four people were believed to have outstanding warrants for their arrest. Neither the names of those arrested nor their charges was immediately released.

December 15, 2010

Dennis Temple was sentenced to 100 years in prison Wednesday for the kidnapping and rape a Clemson University student last year. Oconee County deputies said they were called to All-Safe Storage at 600 Shiloh Road in Seneca at about 1 a.m. May 10. They forced their way into one of the storage units and found the woman. She told deputies that she had been delivering items to a unit on Sunday night when she was abducted, sexually assaulted, bound and locked inside the unit in which she had been found. Deputies said the woman was able to free herself and call 911. Temple turned himself in to authorities May 11. He was charged with kidnapping, first-degree criminal sexual conduct and grand larceny of a motor vehicle. He has been held in jail since his arrest with bond set \$200,000. On Tuesday, the jury heard the 911 call placed by the 21-year-old woman. They also heard from investigators who said the woman immediately identified Temple as her attacker within seconds of seeing him in a lineup. The jury was shown photos of the woman's injuries. Prosecutors introduced DNA evidence on Wednesday. The jury deliberated for 30 minutes before finding Temple guilty of kidnapping, grand larceny and two counts of criminal sexual assault in connection with the May crime.

December 16, 2010

Simpsonville police arrested a man who they say robbed Sun Trust Bank on Main Street on Thursday morning. Curtis William Arms, 25, of Easley, is in jail on \$100,000 bond. He's facing a bank robbery charge. Police said a witness helped identify Arms and the truck he used to get away from the bank. Officers said they spotted his truck 15 minutes after the bank robbery and arrested him. They said \$5,000 in stolen money was recovered.

December 17, 2010

Authorities are urging Spartanburg County residents not to put mail with money in their mailbox. The Herald-Journal of Spartanburg reported Friday that deputies are looking for a woman they think has been stealing mail over the past six months. Master Deputy Tony Ivey strongly encouraged residents not to use their home mailbox to mail out payments. He said residents should take their mail to a Postal Service mailbox or a local post office. Mail theft is a federal crime that carries up to a five-year prison sentence and a \$25,000 fine.

December 20, 2010

A woman and her daughter were at a drive-through ATM on Monday night when their back glass was shot out, Spartanburg police said. The shooting happened at the Founders Federal Credit Union at 550 S. Church St. about 6:45 p.m. According to an incident report, the woman and her daughter noticed two men walking on a nearby road while waiting their turn to use the ATM. It said that when the woman began making her deposit, one of the men began running toward the vehicle. That was when the daughter began screaming, the report said. The report said that the woman heard a shot and she sped away. It said that when the woman pulled onto a nearby street she heard four more, rapidly fired shots. The report said that the back glass of the woman's car was shattered with the second and third shot. The woman and her daughter traveled to a nearby fire station, where they called for help, the report said. Police said that five shell casings were discovered at the scene, the incident report said. The gunman was described as black, wearing a gray, hooded shirt, blue jeans and white tennis shoes. The other man was described as black, wearing a black coat with red letters and designs on the back and blue jeans.

December 20, 2010

Spartanburg County deputies said they are investigating a fire that destroyed a truck at a gas station Monday morning. The fire happened at the Kangaroo Station at 6200 Highway 221 about 8:30 a.m. Firefighters said once they arrived at the scene, they found a tractor-trailer had been damaged by fire. They said the fire, which had burned itself out by the time crews arrived, had started in the cab of the truck, which had been parked at the gas station over the weekend. Deputies said about an 90 minutes later, firefighters were called back to the gas station. They said this time firefighters found the truck ablaze and requested an arson investigator from the Sheriff's Office come to the scene. The investigator said that there were several indicators of arson, but that the investigation is in its very early stages. No one was injured in the fire.

December 22, 2010

The Greenville County Sheriff's Office is asking the public to help find a man who impersonated an officer and sexually assaulted a woman. Investigator Tina Adams told FOX Carolina that on Dec. 10, the victim was traveling near Cherrydale on Poinsette Highway and was heading toward Greenville when she saw flashing blue lights behind her. Adams said the woman pulled into the median and was approached by a man who appeared to be a deputy. The victim gave the man her driver's license, and he then returned to his car, Adams said. Adams said the man then returned to the window and told the victim her license was suspended. He then obtained permission to search her car, Adams said. According to Adams, the man then placed handcuffs on the victim, led her to the rear of her vehicle, opened her trunk, lifted her dress and sexually assaulted her. The man then released the victim and sped off toward Greenville, Adams said. Adams said the man was in a dark-colored sedan that had blue lights and looked much like an unmarked police vehicle. The attacker is described as a white man with a tanned, olive complexion, possibly with short brown hair and brown eyes. The victim said the hairstyle and complexion reminded her of an Italian man, according to Adams. At the time of the assault, he was wearing a dark blue or black uniform, including a short-sleeved shirt with military-style achievement ribbons on the left breast where a badge would normally sit, Adams said. An unknown badge was attached to his belt, and he carried a baton, Adams said. Lt. Shae Smith, with the GCSO, told FOX Carolina that an investigation conducted by the Office of Professional Standards determined that the man was not a deputy of the force. A sketch artist with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division met with the victim on Wednesday, and authorities released a composite sketch of the man. Anyone with information about the attack or the man's identity is asked to contact Crime Stoppers at 23-CRIME. Deputies also reminded citizens only to stop for law enforcement officers in well-populated and well-lit areas, and urged motorists to call 911 on a cell phone if they fear the person stopping them is not a law enforcement officer.

December 22, 2010

Asheville police released a surveillance image of a man accused of stealing one of the Salvation Army's red kettles. Detectives need the public's help to identify a person seen in surveillance footage at the Ingles store on Long Shoals Road Dec. 20. Officers said the man stole a Salvation Army donation bucket outside the grocery store shortly after 4 p.m., when its attendant stepped away to help a motorist with a disabled vehicle. Investigators said the photo they released of a man entering the store near the time of the larceny matches the description provided to police. Anyone with information is asked to contact police at (828) 252-1110 or Crime Stoppers at (828) 255-5050.

December 22, 2010

A 22-year-old Spartanburg County day care worker is accused of inappropriate contact with four children ages 3 to 6. The Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office reported that Ronasha Taylor of Simpsonville was charged Wednesday with four counts of lewd act on a minor. Investigators said a call from the Kids R Kids day care prompted their investigation. A report accuses Taylor of inappropriate touching and having children lick her breasts. Taylor's [bond](#) was set at \$10,000. The owner of the Kids R Kids day care issued a statement that in part said, "We were the ones that requested the investigation after the parents made the allegations. The teacher in question that the allegations were made against was hired with experience from two other Upstate child care centers and passed all required background checks. The teacher is no longer working at Kids R Kids." A sheriff's spokesman said in an [e-mail](#) daycare management fully cooperated with the investigation. The report said the investigation began Oct. 18, with a referral from the Department of Social Services.

December 22, 2010

Authorities in Pickens County canceled an Amber Alert has been issued for two children after police said the woman who reported that the two girls were taken from a mobile home on Old Easley Bridge Road on Wednesday gave a false report. Pickens County sheriff's deputies said 2-year-old Alexis London Marie Manley, and 1-year-old Kynadi Leigh Grace Manley are still missing. Deputies said they are working with out-of-state authorities to find the sisters. According to investigators, Alexis London Marie was last seen wearing green pajamas with a monkey print, and Kynadi Leigh Grace was wearing pink pajamas with turtles. Anyone with information on the whereabouts of the children is urged to call the Pickens County Sheriff's Office at 864-898-5500. The children were reported missing at about 7 a.m. on Wednesday by a family member named Lisa Jordan. Pickens County Deputies said Jordan told them that someone came in to her home and kidnapped two little girls in her care. Investigators originally identified the mother of the children -- 20-year-old Keyly Martay Wade -- as a suspect and listed the girls' maternal grandmother, 48-year-old Belinda Hildebrand, as a person of interest. Upon further investigation, officers said they discovered Jordan filed a false report related to the burglary, kidnapping and car theft. Jordan is charged with four felony counts of filing a false report.

December 29, 2010

Copper thieves hit an Anderson County homeless shelter over the weekend, Anderson County deputies said. Deputies said the thieves cut through barbed wire around the heating units at the Clean Start shelter on Townsend Street. They said the thieves stole about \$1,200 worth of copper. Shelter workers said they were forced to shut down because the heating system was badly damaged, affecting many of the area's homeless who use the shelter to take showers and wash their clothes. "It's just very disappointing," said Rick Brosche, who volunteers at the shelter. "It hurts us that our clients will be cold when they come in here on Wednesday and Friday. Hopefully, we will have it fixed by the weekend." Workers said the theft caused about \$6,000 in damage. They said another \$2,000 will be spent to add more security around the heating system. Brosche said the thieves also stole copper from a neighboring church.

December 30, 2010

man walked into an office at AnMed Health on Tuesday and stole from a nurse's purse, Anderson police said. Police said surveillance video showed the man walking down a hallway before walking into an office. They said the nurse was walking down the same hallway when she saw the man go inside her office. Investigators said the nurse blocked the man inside and said she saw the man steal \$170 from her purse. Anyone with information about the theft is asked to call Anderson County Crime Stoppers at 231-STOP.

Attachments



Education

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
FOURTH QUARTER 2010**

Problem/Need: **EDUCATION**

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM
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October 6, 2010

[Schools](#) in the Upstate and across the country took part in International Walk To School Day on Wednesday morning. Organizers said that the goal of the annual event is to get kids moving. Students at Augusta Circle [Elementary School](#) participated in the annual trek. "It's so much healthier if they walk to school," said Kerry Bannister, principal. "They get their energy out." According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, only about 15 percent of students walk or bike to and from school. Eighty-five percent get to school by car, school bus, public transit or some other mode of transportation.

November 16, 2010

The Obama administration has pushed an ambitious education agenda in the last two years, sending \$100 billion to states through the stimulus package and spurring reform in many locations through the Race to the Top competition. But none of the major initiatives pushed by President Barack Obama and Education Secretary Arne Duncan have been bipartisan. Most were approved through large spending bills that Republicans opposed. Politicians and experts said the big Republican gains in Congress will serve as a roadblock to further Democrat-led education reform efforts, including a likely decrease in big-ticket spending as the GOP seeks greater fiscal restraint. Another round of the \$4.35 billion Race to the Top competition or a [cash](#) infusion like the \$10 billion aid package Democrats passed earlier this fall to save thousands of teacher jobs would almost certainly be blocked. Efforts to save Pell Grants for low- and middle-income students and revamp the No Child Left Behind Act will be complicated with Congress so divided. "Obama and Duncan were very lucky that they had two years of relatively little interference from the Congress, and the Congress gave them a lot of money in education," Jack Jennings, director of the Center for Education Policy. The GOP takeover of the House means that Rep. John Kline of Minnesota will become the chair of the Education and Labor Committee, giving the Minnesota Republican huge clout in shaping education spending. Kline is a deficit hawk and retired Marine pilot who said it's time to pull Washington out of the nation's classrooms and stop using billions in federal dollars to bail out state education budgets. "Washington does not have the money and the states have got to face their own issues," said Kline. In an interview this week in Paris, Duncan said he was optimistic the Republican election victories wouldn't derail the administration's plans, but conceded "There's no guarantee our agenda will continue to move." Both parties have agreed on the need to revamp No Child Left Behind, the nation's most important -- and controversial -- education law. The law was passed on a bipartisan vote in 2001 when Congress was similarly divided between a Republican House and Democratic Senate. "They're so close on this issue you could imagine both Democrats and Republicans saying, 'This is something we promised our constituents, that we'd fix No Child Left Behind,'" said Mike Petrilli, executive vice president at the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, an education think tank. But accomplishing even such a broadly held goal would require overcoming considerable divides between Democrats and Republicans on the role of the federal government in education, along with a different set of splits among Democrats over reforms like performance pay for teachers and charter schools. Many of the ideas Obama has adopted, including tying teacher pay to student test scores, are ideas Republicans have traditionally adopted. But they rode a wave of anti-Obama and big government sentiment to victory this November, and are certain to push for a smaller federal role in public education. In an interview with The Associated Press, Kline voiced opposition to a range of Obama education policies - from the Common Core academic benchmarks to the \$4.35 billion Race to the Top - primarily because he opposes federal interference with state and local decisions on education. And while Kline approves of charter schools and performance pay for teachers, he doesn't want the federal government to be making decisions in those areas. He said No Child Left Behind is one area with room for compromise, partly because both sides want to trim the law's reach in various ways. "We're going to make changes. How we do it, how big they are, how big the bill is, all those things are to be worked out," Kline said from his Minnesota office. Democratic lawmakers also see reforming the law as an opportunity for the parties to work together. "I see no reason why we can't do this by summer," said Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa, the Democratic chairman of the [Health](#), Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. Teacher unions - who heavily support Democratic candidates during elections - have resisted ideas like performance pay and charter schools. "Where we are totally the same in looking at the current right now is that the status quo is not acceptable," said Dennis Van Roekel, president of the 3.2 million member National Education Association. An outline for rewriting the law released by the Obama administration in March was designed to scale back federal involvement at most schools, asking states to develop high standards for students and teacher effectiveness. The nation's lowest performing schools would be offered four turnaround models - including replacing the principal and a majority of the staff, and closing it altogether. Republicans and Democrats have questioned the merit of the models, and the most conservative Republicans object to the federal government having any say on how a school is improved. Whatever consensus Obama is able to reach on education with Democrats and Republicans, most agree his time is limited, before presidential election politics start up next fall. "The challenge for getting ESEA reauthorized is not the makeup of Congress," said Amy Wilkins, vice president for government affairs and communications at The Education Trust. "It's the timing. I think if we don't get it done by next fall, it will be very hard." Although higher education is expected to take a backseat to K-12 policy during the next Congress, two significant issues loom: the fate of federal student aid programs and Democratic-led efforts to crack down on for-profit colleges. The Pell Grant program, a lifeline for low- and middle-income families trying to afford college, has enjoyed bipartisan support over the years. But with Republicans running on a call to cut spending, federal grants and loans subsidizing higher education could be on the table. For-profit colleges are fighting a proposed Department of Education rule that would cut off federal aid to college vocational programs with high student-debt levels and poor loan repayment rates.

November 17, 2010

The House's top budget writer said that cutting 10 days off the school year in South Carolina could save up to \$210 million. The House Ways and Means Chairman Dan Cooper said Thursday that trimming the school year to 170 days could eliminate a quarter of the state's \$800 million budget hole. South Carolina officials already gave school districts permission to cut 10 days this school year, but those savings went into school districts' budgets instead of the state's [accounts](#). Cooper said other ideas being kicked around include consolidating the state's cultural agencies, like museums and the archives department, into one central agency.

November 18, 2010

A national education assessment released Thursday shows that high school seniors have made some improvement in [reading](#), but remain below the achievement levels reached nearly two decades ago. The National Assessment of Educational Progress, referred to as the Nation's Report Card, tested 52,000 students in reading and 49,000 in math across 1,670 school districts in 2009. Students scored an average of 288 out of 500 points in reading comprehension, two points above the 2005 score but still below the 1992 average of 292. Thirty-eight percent of 12th grade students were classified as at or above the "proficient" level, while 74 percent were considered at or above "basic." "Today's report suggests that high school seniors' achievement in reading and math isn't rising fast enough to prepare them to succeed in college and careers," U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan said. Cornelia S. Orr, executive director of the National Assessment Governing Board, which oversees development tests, said she was encouraged by the fact reading scores had gone up in recent years. "And we'd like it to get back up to the level it once was," she said. The trouble advancing student reading skills extends across grade levels. Reading scores for fourth and eighth grade students in 2009 were only four points higher than in 1992. The No Child Left Behind law championed by President George W. Bush set a goal for every student to read and do math at their grade level by 2014, but the national assessment scores indicate students are still trailing significantly behind. In 2009, 33 percent of fourth grade and 32 percent of eighth grade students scored at the proficient level in reading. In a statement, Duncan noted that President Barack Obama set a goal for the United States to have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by the end of the decade, and that in a survey that accompanied the reading and math test, 86 percent of seniors said they expect to graduate college. "They'll only succeed if we challenge and support them to raise their academic performance and offer them the financial support they need to pay for college," Duncan said. He said he is [confident](#) that goal can be reached with the efforts the administration currently has under way, including providing \$40 million in Pell Grants, supporting states as they raise academic standards, and investing in efforts for states to create data systems to help track student performance. The scores released Thursday also show that a stubborn achievement gap remains across racial and ethnic groups. There was no significant change in the score or gap in reading for black and or Hispanic students since 1992. White and Asian students both scored higher than they did in 2005. Asian students scored an average of 298 points in reading in 2009, higher than any other group. It was the first time since at least 1992 that a minority group outperformed white students on the test. Orr said further analysis, including a look at course-taking pattern, is needed to further explain the advancements Asian students have made in recent years. Math scores rose from 150 to 153 between 2005 and 2009. The test was significantly changed in 2005, so a comparison with scores from earlier years was not applicable. Orr said the improvement between 2005 and 2009 was significant. "The math framework was made increasingly challenging, but students continued to improve their mathematics performance," Orr said. Bob Wise, president of the Alliance for Excellent Education and the former governor of West Virginia, said many of the students graduating without high school reading and comprehension skills will need to take remedial courses in their freshman year of college. He cited federal statistics showing that students in remedial reading courses are three times more likely to drop out of college before earning a bachelor's degree. "If you end up in the emergency room with an EKG that shows this kind of flat line, someone would be trying to shock you back to life," Wise said in a statement. "The federal government needs to take the same immediate action for the nation's older students." The results of students in 11 states that volunteered to participate in a pilot state program were also released. Five states had higher scores in both subjects than the national average: Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and South Dakota. Two states, Idaho and Illinois, had scores that were higher in reading but not significantly different in math. New Jersey had a higher math score but a similar national reading score. Three states scored lower in both subjects: Arkansas, Florida and West Virginia. Florida Education Commissioner Eric Smith said the results indicate there is "much more work ahead," but that he was confident recent reform efforts, along with the state's Race to the Top win, will help increase scores in the years ahead.

December 6, 2010

Clemson will make a short trip to play in the Meineke Bowl for the first time in a matchup with South Florida in coach Skip Holtz's return to North Carolina. Bowl officials invited the Tigers (6-6) on Sunday ahead of Maryland and after North Carolina State was selected by the Champs [Sports](#) Bowl. Clemson's strong fan base and its location 2 1/2 hours from Charlotte made it an attractive choice for the Dec. 31 game at Bank of America Stadium. The Bulls (7-5) will play in this bowl for the second time, getting the bid a day after falling to [Big East](#) champion Connecticut 19-16. It'll mark Holtz's return to the state after he guided East Carolina for five seasons.

December 6, 2010

South Carolina is coming back to Atlanta for the Chick-fil-A Bowl. One day after being routed by top-ranked Auburn in the [Southeastern Conference](#) championship game, the Gamecocks accepted an invitation Sunday to face Florida State in the New Year's Eve bowl at the

Georgia Dome. The 19th-ranked Gamecocks were passed over by two Florida bowls, the Capital One and the Outback, after their 56-17 loss to Auburn. That left the Chick-fil-A Bowl with a matchup of teams that lost in their respective conference championship games. Officials with the Atlanta game had already announced they would take the loser of the [Atlantic Coast Conference](#) title game. No. 23 Florida State (9-4) was defeated by Virginia Tech 44-33

December 13, 2010

The parents of a New Hampshire teenager are asking school officials to stop teachers from using a book that refers to Jesus Christ as a "wine-guzzling vagrant and precocious socialist." The 2001 book, "Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting By in America," documents author Barbara Ehrenreich's attempts to live on minimum wage. The reference comes as she observes that a preacher doesn't mention Jesus' social teachings. The New Hampshire Union Leader reports Aimee and Dennis Taylor, of Bedford, N.H., don't want the book being used in their son's personal [finance class](#). They object to the author's characterization of Christianity and have pulled him from the school. The couple plans to go before the school board to ask that the book be removed from the curriculum.

December 13, 2010

Blaming teachers for low test scores, poor graduation rates and the other ills of American schools has been popular lately, but a new survey wags a finger closer to home. An Associated Press-Stanford University Poll on education found that 68 percent of adults believe parents deserve heavy blame for what's wrong with the U.S. education system - more than teachers, school administrators, the government or teachers unions. Only 35 percent of those surveyed agreed that teachers deserve a great deal or a lot of the blame. Moms were more likely than dads - 72 percent versus 61 percent - to say parents are at fault. Conservatives were more likely than moderates or liberals to blame parents. Those who said parents are to blame were more likely to cite a lack of student discipline and low expectations for students as serious problems in schools. They were also more likely to see fighting and low test scores as big problems. "Nobody is too busy to raise a child for a successful future," said Wilfred Luise Vincent, 65, of Coppell, Texas. Vincent worked early or late shifts for Delta Airlines during most of his career so his two daughters would have a parent at home after school. Now he's retired and home after school to help guide his granddaughter while his daughter works. The problems children and their parents deal with inside and outside of school every day are growing, said Julie Woestehoff, executive director of Parents United for Responsible Education, a Chicago advocacy group. Children are tired, they're hungry and they need someone to help with their homework. Some kids face violence at home or in their neighborhood. Some parents are trying so hard to keep a roof over their family that they can't help with school. More than half of those polled said student discipline and fighting, violence and gangs were extremely or very serious problems in schools. Nearly as many expressed concern about getting and keeping good teachers. Most said education in their local public schools is excellent or good, but 67 percent also believe the U.S. is falling behind the rest of the world when it comes to education. But a majority of parents see improvement in the system since they were in school: 55 percent believe their children are getting a better education than they did, and three-quarters rate the [quality](#) of education at their child's school as excellent or good. Most say their child's school is doing a good job preparing students for college, the work force and life as an adult. A variety of research in past years backs up the poll respondents' sense that parenting plays key roles in school performance. One in 10 kindergarten and first-grade students misses a month of school every year, which can put them behind their classmates for years, according to Attendance Counts, an advocacy group. By ninth grade, missing 20 percent of school is a better predictor of a student dropping out than test scores are, said Attendance Counts director Hedy Chang. In the poll, 41 percent said students not spending enough time in school is a serious problem. Exposing kids under 2 to too much television can cause them to develop language skills later, researchers at the University of Washington have found. Hungry students do worse on standardized tests and are absent more often, according several studies that have connected poor nutrition with students who have trouble concentrating. Educating parents about how the school system works and [welcoming](#) them to get involved may also help their children, according to Joyce L. Epstein, research professor of sociology at Johns Hopkins University, who focuses on school, family and community partnerships. "Without programs to educate parents, everyone is working in some stage of ignorance," Epstein said. Some things just can't be fixed by schools or even the community, says Mike Principe, 62, of Melrose Park, a suburb of Chicago, Ill. In addition to worrying about school violence, a lack of student discipline, low expectations for achievement, difficulty attracting good teachers and unimpressive student test scores, Principe is concerned about divorce, the economy, single parents and the national debt. "These are tough times we're living in," Principe said. "What's our world going to be like when our 2-year-old is an adult?" The AP-Stanford Poll on Education was conducted Sept. 23-30 by Abt SRBI, Inc. It involved interviews on landline and cellular telephones with 1,001 adults nationwide and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.9 percentage points. Stanford's participation in this project was made possible by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

December 13, 2010

With the 150th anniversary of the Civil War approaching, cadets from The Citadel [plan](#) to re-enact the firing of what many consider the first hostile shots of the conflict. In January 1861, just weeks after South Carolina seceded from the Union, Citadel cadets on Morris Island fired on the federal steamship Star of the West. The [ship](#) was trying to resupply Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, but the firing forced the ship to turn back and the war began the following April with the Confederate bombardment of the Union fort. About 20 faculty and cadet re-enactors from the state military college will re-enact the firing on the ship on Jan. 8.

Attachments



Environment

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
FOURTH QUARTER 2010**

Problem/Need: **ENVIRONMENT**

DATE

October 12, 2010

BMW Manufacturing Co. said it will use hydrogen [fuel](#) cells to power material-handling equipment in its new South Carolina assembly facility where the BMW X3 is made. The company said in a news release Monday that the only byproduct of the fuel cells is heat and water, making it an efficient and [environmentally friendly](#) option. The company said that 85 pieces of equipment will be powered by the hydrogen fuel cells. The cells maintain the same level of power even as the tank nears empty, unlike batteries that run slower as they run down. The fuel cells can be recharged in 20 minutes. The company estimates it would have taken 1.8 million kilowatt hours of electricity a year to charge a battery-powered fleet.

October 27, 2010

The National Weather Service said Wednesday that a weak tornado downed trees and damaged a lodge near Travelers Rest on Tuesday night. FOX Carolina's Lauren Elise reported that there is a swath of damage about a quarter-mile long left behind from the storm that rolled through about 7:30 p.m. at the Look Up Lodge off the Cherokee Hills Scenic Highway. Elise reported about 15 utility trucks and about 40 workers were at the scene to clean up the felled trees and restore power to the lodge. Lodge workers told Elise that about 40 guests were at the facility when the storm rolled through and that one building sustained damage. They said that basketball courts and docks were also damaged. "The power went off and we started getting a little nervous," said Lindsey McGee, a camper at the lodge. "The wind picked up and doors flew open. We heard trees snapping. We were just thanking the Lord we were okay." "We are a Christian camp, so if our brothers or sisters want to come offer a hand, a chainsaw, a dollar or a biscuit, we will not refuse that," said Kevin Keigley with the lodge. The weather service rated the tornado as an EF0, which is the lowest rating on the Enhanced Fujita scale.

October 28, 2010

Rescuers searching islands ravaged by a tsunami off western Indonesia raised the death toll to 343 Thursday as more bodies were found and said the number is likely to climb higher because hundreds of missing people may have been swept away. Elsewhere in Indonesia, the volcano that killed 33 people this week began erupting again, though there were no reports of new injuries or damage. Mourners held a mass burial Thursday during a lull in Mount Merapi's rumblings. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was to meet Thursday with survivors of the twin catastrophes, which struck within 24 hours in different corners of the seismically charged region, severely testing the nation's emergency response network. Officials say a multimillion-dollar warning system installed after a monster 2004 quake and tsunami broke down one month ago because it was not being properly maintained. In the tsunami-ravaged Mentawai islands, search and rescue teams - kept away for days by stormy seas and bad weather - found roads and beaches with swollen corpses lying on them, according to Hermansyah, head of the West Sumatra provincial disaster management center. Some wore face masks as they wrapped corpses in black body bags on Pagai Utara, one of the four main islands in the Mentawai chain located between Sumatra and the Indian Ocean. Huge swaths of land were underwater and houses lay crumpled with tires and slabs of concrete piled on the surrounding sand. Ferry Faisal, of the West Sumatra provincial disaster management agency, raised the official toll Thursday to 343 from 311 earlier in the day. He said 338 people are still missing. Hermansyah said the teams were losing hope of finding those missing since the wall of water, created by a 7.8-magnitude earthquake, crashed into the islands on Monday. "They believe many, many of the bodies were swept to sea," he said. On Thursday, more than 100 survivors crowded into a makeshift medical center in the town of Sikakap on Pagai Utara. Some still wept for loved ones lost to the 10-foot (three-meter) wave as they lay on straw mats or sat on the floor, waiting for medics to treat injuries including broken limbs and cuts. Hermansyah, a local fisheries ministry official who survived the earthquake and wave that hit Sikakap because he was on higher ground, quickly formed a rescue coordination committee and began traveling to other areas, finding several villages flattened. "Not even the foundations of houses are standing. All of them are gone," said Hermansyah, who like many Indonesians uses a single name. He said the devastation he saw indicates the wave could have been higher than reported in some areas - perhaps more than 20 feet (six meters) high. About 800 miles (1,300 kilometers) to the east in central Java, Mount Merapi began spewing hot clouds of ash again at around 4:30 p.m. Thursday, according to the Indonesian vulcanology agency Subandriyo. Most residents have been evacuated from the area. It was unclear whether the new activity was a sign of another major blast to come. Tuesday's eruption killed at least 33 people and injured 17, said Agustinus, a doctor at the local health department. Residents from the hardest-hit villages of Kinahrejo, Ngrangkah, and Kaliadem - which were decimated in Tuesday's blast - crammed into refugee camps. Officials brought surviving cows, buffalo and goats down the mountain so that they wouldn't try to go home to check on their livestock. Thousands attended a mass burial for 26 of the victims six miles (10) kilometers from the mountain's base. They included family and friends, who wept and hugged one another as bodies were lowered into the grave in rows. Among the dead was a revered elder who had refused to leave his ceremonial post as caretaker of the mountain's spirits. He was buried in a separate funeral Thursday.

November 29, 2010

The National Weather [Service](#) issued a flash flood watch Monday for most of the western Carolinas and northeast Georgia ahead of heavy rain forecast for Tuesday. The watch includes all of western North Carolina, Oconee and Pickens counties in South Carolina and Stephens County in northeast Georgia. The watch is in effect from Tuesday afternoon until late Tuesday night. FOX Carolina chief meteorologist Kendra Kent said a few spotty showers will move into the western Carolinas by Monday night, with a chance of rain through the evening. Kent said the heavy rain will begin on Tuesday, with 1 to 2 inches possible for much of the area. She said some areas could receive as much as 4 inches by Tuesday night. Some strong and severe thunderstorms are also possible Tuesday, Kent said, with the potential to produce gusty winds and isolated tornadoes. Forecasters said the heavy rain will cause a rapid rise in water levels in areas near streams and rivers and flood-prone areas. The weather service said residents who live in the watch area should monitor water levels closely and be prepared to take action if a flash flood warning is issued. Stay with FOX Carolina and foxcarolina.com for the latest weather [information](#).

November 29, 2010

Officials at Atlanta's airport say about two-dozen flights were canceled and others delayed because of a [power](#) outage. Katena Carvajales, a spokeswoman for Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, says about 18 of the airport's 199 gates lost power for about seven hours Monday. Power was restored around noon. The cause of the outage wasn't immediately clear. [Delta Air](#) Lines spokesman Anthony Black says the airline canceled about two dozen flights and was forced to delay some flights into Atlanta. He says some arrivals and departures had to be moved away from the gates that didn't have power. Black says that Mondays are generally busy, and that this Monday is particularly busy because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

December 1, 2010

Severe storms that moved through the Upstate on Tuesday night left behind lots of damage. The hardest hit area appears to be Easley, where law enforcement said it received reports of a tornado near downtown just before 8 p.m. FOX Carolina's Dana Wachter reported that an office building sustained major roof and facade damage. She said that power lines and lamp posts were also knocked down in the North Pendleton Street area. She said that the steeple of First Union Baptist Church was bent by powerful winds. Jenna Caiazzo and Greg Funderburg, both of FOX Carolina, reported that trees were down and store fronts sustained damage along Main Street. Main Street from Pendleton to South First streets was closed while crews worked to clean up the damage, according to police. A shelter has been set up by the American Red Cross at the First Baptist Church of Easley at 300 E. First St. FOX Carolina has also received reports of damage from viewers in Gray Court. One viewer reported that a house was pushed off its foundation along Brammlet Church Road. The same viewer also said a home's chimney was toppled by high winds along Highway 101. The National Weather Service will survey the damage Wednesday to determine if it was caused by a tornado. In western North Carolina, a driver took a wrong turn on Highway 126 and ended up in a flooded stream, rescue crews said. They said the woman was forced to swim to safety and crews were seen attaching a cable to the car to remove it from the water. FOX Carolina's Marie Waxel said that some parking lots in Hendersonville were underwater. She said that a car tried to drive through standing water and got stuck Wednesday morning. A mudslide was also reported near Flat Rock. Do you have some great video or pictures of Tuesday's storm damage? E-mail it to iwitness@foxcarolina.com or [click here to upload it](#).

December 1, 2010

Cleanup continues in Easley and Gray Court after a tornado swept through Tuesday night, leaving some homes and shops in shambles. The weather service said that the Easley tornado touched down in Old Market Square and moved northeast toward Oakdale Lane. They said the tornado then moved to Lenhardt Road and continued to the intersection with Jameson Road. **Also:** [View Map Of Easley Tornado Path](#) | [View Images Easley Damage](#) Many stores and homes in the downtown Easley area sustained damage. Some of the damage seen by FOX Carolina crews were shattered windows, fallen trees and lamp posts and roof damage. Several homes in the McDaniel neighborhood were also reportedly damaged. The powerful winds also toppled bricks from a downtown business and tilted the steeple on the First Union Baptist Church. Forecasters said the tornado's winds reached 105 mph, making it an EF1 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale. That is the second-lowest ranking on the scale. "You just have to wait on the insurance people," said John Alley, of the Main Street Barber Shop. "I hope Santa Claus doesn't hurry and come this year." "We hope to be open within a week," said Tammy Seay, an Easley business owner. "They're still trying to figure out how much roof damage we have." Police are guarding Main Street while the power is out because some business owners are trying to secure their property despite the damage. In Gray Court, the weather service said a tornado with winds between 95 and 100 mph downed trees, collapsed roofs and pushed mobile homes from their foundations. **Also:** [View Map Of Gray Court Tornado Path](#) Forecasters said the tornado touched down along Wynfield Court off Highway 101 at 9:43 p.m. They said trees were snapped off and an outbuilding was toppled by the winds. They said the twister then moved northeast and blew off the skirting of a mobile home on Robert Harris Court. The tornado pushed a double-wide mobile home on Bramlett Church Road off its foundation, ripped the siding from the home and damaged much of its skirting, the weather service said. The homeowner, Noyphoner Lee Parks, said he and his family were inside the home when the twister hit. "She said, 'Babe! Babe! It's coming! It's coming,'" Parks said. "About that time we grabbed our son and got ready to run out of the room, but it threw us against the wall and pinned us down. (It) had the trailer up in the air about seven feet and just shook us." On Christmas Tree Lane, a large oak tree was uprooted and fell on a home, the weather service said. They said shingles were also blown off of a home and a detached garage was also destroyed. The Gray Court tornado was also rated an EF1. No injuries or fatalities were reported in either tornado.

December 6, 2010

Driving from Greenville to near the North Carolina-Tennessee border on Sunday, a FOX Carolina crew experienced some major differences in the weather. In the Upstate, the sky was mostly clear. By the time the crew reached Asheville, flurries were flying, which increased to moderate snow as the crew approached the border. At a gas station in Mars Hill, N.C., almost every [vehicle](#) that stopped to fill up was either a truck or a Jeep, ready for the slick roads. A group of people said they were excited to see the snow. They said they look forward to the winter every year, so they can get out and play. "Just riding around, finding slick roads, open parking lots to slide and spin," said Steven Menard. "We'll probably go sledding here in a little while." Road crews salted the roads up and down the North Carolina mountains, but snow and ice accumulated gradually Sunday night. About 10:30 p.m., previously grassy areas in Madison County had 3 to 4 inches of snow. On Monday morning, about 20 schools and [colleges](#) were either closed or delayed because of the slick roads. A winter weather advisory was issued for Madison, Mitchell and Yancey counties until 6 a.m. Friday. Forecasters said snow showers will increase by Monday afternoon, leading to another 1 to 3 inches of accumulation, with higher amounts possible on the high peaks, before ending early Tuesday morning. Some travel problems were reported along Interstates 26 and 40, mainly north of Asheville early Monday.

December 13, 2010

Several inches of snow blanketed the mountains Monday morning, but all of the western Carolinas will feel the chill of winter this week. A winter storm warning is in effect until 6 a.m. Tuesday for Graham, Haywood, Madison, Mitchell, Swain and Yancey counties. A winter weather advisory is in effect until 6 a.m. Tuesday for Buncombe, northern Jackson, Macon counties, and the mountains of McDowell County. The weather service said that 2 to 4 inches of snow could accumulate in the mountains by Tuesday morning, with as much as 10 inches possible in the highest elevations. Forecasters said in addition to the heavy snow, high winds could make [travel](#) dangerous. Most of the major roads were passable as of Monday morning, but troopers were asking residents to stay off the roads as much as possible to allow transportation crews to quickly clear the roads. Many schools and [colleges](#) were either closed or delayed Monday morning thanks to the wintry weather. Garbage and recycling service in Asheville was delayed Monday while crews waited for road conditions to improve. Some Upstate residents saw some snow as well Sunday night, mainly along the North Carolina-South Carolina border. FOX Carolina meteorologist Alexandra Wilson said that winds and low temperatures will become the big weather story after the snow ends. Wilson said that winds between 20 and 40 mph will be felt in the mountains and between 15 and 25 mph in the Upstate through Tuesday. She said that gusts could reach as high as 50 mph in some locations. Temperatures will top out in the low 20s in the mountains on Monday and low 30s in the Upstate, Wilson said. She said the winds will push wind chill values into the negative teens for the mountains and near 0 degrees for the Upstate. Rain, possibly mixed with snow, moves into the area again by midweek, Wilson said.

December 15, 2010

The week started with snow and may end the same way for some as snow, sleet and [freezing rain](#) are forecast for much of the western Carolinas by Thursday morning. **Also:** [View Futurecast For 12/15/2010](#) The National Weather [Service](#) issued a winter weather for all of much of the Upstate, mountains and northeast Georgia from 8 p.m. Wednesday until 10 a.m. Thursday. A winter storm warning was issued for Mitchell and Yancey counties and the mountains of McDowell County from midnight to noon Thursday. The precipitation will likely begin as a wintry mix for the mountains and northern Upstate late Wednesday night, the weather service said. Forecasters said the Upstate can expect a period of snow and sleet to start before the precipitation changes to all rain by early Thursday morning. They said the mountains should expect mostly wintry precipitation until Thursday morning. FOX Carolina chief meteorologist Kendra Kent said that the temperature will play a large role in the precipitation type during the storm. She said a single degree can make a big difference in the forecast. Troopers said they are monitoring the forecast closely. From Sunday night to Monday night, some in the highest elevations of western North Carolina received as much as a foot of snow. Most other areas in the mountains received at least 2 inches. A new record for daily snowfall was set on Monday. The National Weather Service said that Asheville received 2.8 inches of snow, which broke the old record set in 1917 of 2 inches. After the snow, came near-record cold. In Greenville, the record low temperature of 11 degrees was tied Tuesday morning. That record was set in 1917. In Asheville, the mercury dipped to 10 degrees, which is one degree shy of Tuesday's record.

December 30, 2010

Two western North Carolina teenagers are recovering after they were rescued from a nearly frozen pond Wednesday. The rescue happened along Cat Creek Road. Rescue workers said that the teens, both 15 years old, walked across the ice-covered pond to an island. They said when the teens tried to return they fell through the ice about 35 feet away from shore. A passer-by noticed the teens' heads in the water and tried to rescue them, rescue workers said. They said a second person stopped to help and the pair were able to pull the teens from the water. The boys were taken to an area hospital and treated for mild hypothermia and released, rescue workers said.

Attachments



Government

PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM OR NEED FOURTH QUARTER 2010

Problem/Need: **GOVERNMENT**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Sundays	10:00 am	FOX NEWS SUNDAY

Description:

Fox News Sunday is a national weekly program with current events and political issues. (60:00)

October 5, 2010

South Carolina transportation officials are asking lawmakers to raise the state's gasoline tax for the first time in more than 20 years. The Post and [Courier](#) of Charleston reported Tuesday that Transportation Secretary Buck Limehouse has written lawmakers asking them to raise the tax from the current nearly 17 cents per gallon to just over 22 cents per gallon. South Carolina has not raised the tax since 1987. It's the fourth-lowest gasoline tax in the nation. The gas tax pays for road improvements and [construction](#), safety upgrades and bridge replacement. Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell, of Charleston, said the gas tax should be tied to the sales tax that rises and falls with the price of fuel. Lawmakers have quickly rejected recent requests to raise the tax.

October 6, 2010

Desperate for jobs and cool toward President Barack Obama, working-class whites are flocking to Republicans, turning a group long wary of Democrats into an even bigger impediment to the party's drive to keep control of Congress. An Associated Press-GfK poll shows whites without four-year [college degrees](#) preferring GOP candidates by twice the margin of the last two elections, when Democrats made significant gains in the House and Senate. The poll, conducted last month, found this group favoring GOP hopefuls 58 percent to 36 percent - a whopping 22 percentage-point gap. In 2008, when Obama won the presidency, they favored GOP congressional candidates by 11 percentage points, according to exit polls of voters. When Democrats won the House and Senate in 2006, the Republican edge was 9 percentage points. Compared with better-educated whites, working-class whites tend to be older and more conservative - groups that traditionally lean Republican and are uneasy with the young president's activist governing. Their wariness is reinforced by a prolonged economic funk that has disproportionately hurt the working class and shown scant signs of improvement under Obama and Congress' majority Democrats. Though accustomed to trailing among working-class whites, Democrats can hardly afford further erosion from a group that accounts for about 4 in 10 voters nationally. Their GOP preference is in contrast to whites with college degrees, who the AP-GfK Poll shows are split evenly between the two parties' candidates, and to minorities, who decisively back Democrats. Many of these working-class voters were dubbed Reagan Democrats in the 1980s, when some in the North and Midwest who had previously preferred Democrats began supporting conservative Republicans. Many never warmed to Obama during the 2008 presidential race, when he said some bitter small-town residents cling to guns and religion for solace. They preferred Hillary Rodham Clinton, his rival for the Democratic nomination, by 2-1 and in the general election backed Republican nominee John McCain by 18 points. "They try to make everybody think the economy is better, and it isn't," Jennifer Moore, 40, a school bus driver from Amherst, Va., said of Democrats. "Gas prices are going up, food is going up and people working for the minimum wage can't make it." In the AP-GfK poll, working-class whites were likelier than white college graduates to say their families are suffering financially and to have a relative who's recently lost a job. They are less optimistic about the country's economy and their own situations, gloomier about the nation's overall direction and more critical of how Democrats are handling the economy. "Democrats are more apt to mess with the middle class and take our money," said Lawrence Ramsey, 56, a warehouse manager in Winston-Salem, N.C. They are likelier than better-educated whites to dislike Obama personally and are more negative about his leadership. Over half say he doesn't understand ordinary Americans' problems. They are also likelier to disapprove of Obama's performance as president, including more than two-thirds who are unhappy with his stewardship of the economy. "The country hasn't come up the way it should have under Obama," said Barbara Schwickrath, 64, a clothing store employee from Brooksville, Fla. Polls from around the country show the impact of working-class whites' disaffection with Democrats. While a Marist Poll shows both of New York's Democratic senators running strongly, one trails and the other is even among white working-class voters. Quinnipiac University polls show clear advantages with this group for GOP Senate candidates in Florida, Pennsylvania and Ohio. To appeal to them, Obama has used nationally televised chats in people's backyards to emphasize his efforts to lift the economy. The Democratic-led Congress passed legislation with tax cuts and loans for [small businesses](#) before breaking for the election. On the campaign trail, Democrats pounced on Connecticut GOP Senate candidate Linda McMahon's refusal last week to rule out reducing the minimum wage to help ailing companies. "Democrats have to make it a choice between two individual candidates, not a referendum on do you like where things are or not, because no one likes where things are," said Democratic pollster Dave Beattie. Republicans had their own message, unveiling a "Pledge to America" that broadly promised tax and spending cuts and criticizing congressional leaders for adjourning without voting to extend expiring income tax cuts. A TV ad by Wisconsin Republican House contender Sean Duffy features a man in an orange hardhat and safety vest getting flung off a rolling log into a pond. "Our working folks have been tossed aside," Duffy says in the ad. One ray of hope for Democrats is that 28 percent of working-class whites in the AP-GfK Poll say they may still switch candidates. Republicans say it's too late. "Obama and Democrats have had almost two years to try to get things back on track," said GOP pollster David Winston. The AP-GfK Poll was conducted Sept. 8-13 by GfK Roper Public Affairs & Corporate Communications and involved landline and cell phone interviews with 1,000 randomly chosen adults. The margin of sampling error is plus or

minus 4.2 percentage points. Included were interviews with 416 whites without college degrees, for whom the error margin is plus or minus 6.6 points.

October 12, 2010

The results of the state House District 21 [Republican](#) primary race are in, but a runoff will need to determine a victor. Phyllis Henderson led the pack with 841 votes, but Keith Smith was right behind with 739. The runoff is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 26. The [winner](#) of that election will face Democrat Susan Scarborough Smith in the general election will be delayed until Dec. 14. This seat was left empty after State Rep. Bill Wylie died last month while vacationing in Wyoming.

October 15, 2010

Is anybody fit for office anymore? A Florida congressman casts his foe as a religious extremist, "Taliban Dan." A challenger in West Virginia stresses a lawmaker's Arab-American ancestry as shadowy and foreign. Other candidates are nothing but liars, misers, cheaters, even traitors, judging by the 30-second TV attacks. Deep-pocketed independent political groups are making the 2010 election homestretch the most scathing in years. In the frantic final days before the voting, a blitz of negative ads is hitting the air in more than two dozen tight congressional races. The ads warn that candidates who say they're on your side actually care more about Arabs or illegal immigrants - take your pick - than about you. And the other guy seeking your vote? Why, he'll simply make stuff up to get it. This is personal. But often anonymous. In the past month, candidates, the political parties and outside groups have purchased millions of dollars in commercial time. Of the resulting ads, 60 percent have assailed candidates for their stands on issues or for their character, according to the Campaign Media Analysis Group, which monitors such advertising. Groups operating separately from the parties or the candidates are particularly focused on delivering tough messages. Eighty-nine percent of their ads attack political opponents, according to CMAG. "Everyone has a reason to do negative ads," said Evan Tracey, the group's president. "Challengers do it to get competitive, incumbents do it when they're worried about losing to challengers. And groups, if they're running positive spots they're wasting their money." And it's getting tougher out there. An ad airing in Washington state and paid for by a Democratic-leaning group links Republican Senate candidate Dino Rossi to financial scandals. Another, in New Mexico portrays Rep. Harry Teague, a Democrat, as a disagreeable, money-pinching boss. In Colorado, Republican Senate candidate Ken Buck, a prosecutor, is accused of being soft on an illegal gun dealer. And so it goes. Some ads are indirect. One in New Mexico almost requires program notes to follow the cast of characters. GOP gubernatorial candidate Susana Martinez, a county district attorney, ran one ad targeting a teacher who appeared in an earlier National Education Association ad critical of her candidacy. Turns out, Martinez's office had prosecuted the teacher's husband, now serving a 23-year sentence on a kidnapping charge. Martinez put those facts into her own ad. The NEA ad "looks different now, doesn't it," Martinez says into the camera. In Louisiana, Democratic Rep. Charlie Melancon, eager to boost his flagging effort to unseat Republican Sen. David Vitter, aired a rare two-minute ad, filmed in the style of a docudrama, that recounts the discovery of Vitter's phone number in the logs of a Washington, D.C., escort service. With a galvanized Republican electorate, a Democratic administration seeking to invigorate its base, incumbents concerned about survival and challengers energized to kick them out, there's a reason it's so disagreeable out there: Tough ads work. They fire up partisans, provide more information than feel-good ads, and while they might turn off some independent voters they also help undecideds make up their minds. "Folks like to complain about negativity," said Erika Fowler, an assistant professor of government and director of Wesleyan University's Media Project. "That said, we do tend to see movement in places where there is negativity." It's a time-honored practice with a vicious history. Allies of John Quincy Adams printed handbills accusing Andrew Jackson of executing six militiamen in 1813 without cause. Jackson's wife was accused of being an adulteress. Grover Cleveland was mocked as the father of a child out of wedlock with the slogan, "Ma, Ma, where's my Pa?" Supporters had the last laugh when he won: "Gone to the White House. Ha, ha, ha." These days, most negative ads go after candidates for past votes or statements on relevant issues. But a broad range of contests are for open seats without incumbents, leading campaigns to look for foibles, missteps or worse to exploit. Challengers and the party that is out of power are more likely to launch negative ads. Democrats did that in 2006, and captured control of the House and Senate. This year, Republicans hope to return the favor and are casting Democrats as big government spenders who have been unable to fix the economy. But Democrats, facing a tough political environment, are fighting back. They portray Republicans as advocates of privatizing Social Security, they blame Republicans for sending jobs overseas and they have taken past statements by tea party candidates to portray them as far out of the mainstream. "Here in the end game, voters are seeing a lot of advertising, they're seeing a lot of free press, and they get to compare the two candidates and that's good for us," said Democratic strategist Jim Jordan, who is running his own negative ads against Republicans. All this leads to a relentless tit for tat. Consider the Senate race in Nevada. It pits the Senate majority leader, Harry Reid, against Sharron Angle, a Republican former state legislator backed by the tea party. Reid has been persistently casting Angle's views as extreme. Angle has fought back vigorously. She recently took to the air with an ad casting Reid as a supporter of "illegal aliens" with black and white images of young Latino-looking men lurking near fences or staring menacingly at the camera. The narrator intones: "What does Harry Reid have against you?" In another effort with an ethnic subtext, a group called the West Virginia Conservative Foundation is airing an ad that emphasizes Democratic Rep. Nick Rahall's Arab-American ancestry and his support of President Barack Obama. The ad plays a clip of Rahall, whose family is Lebanese, discussing his efforts to enlist fellow Arab-Americans to support Obama as a presidential candidate. As the clip fades, the ad tells viewers to call Rahall and "tell him to stand with West Virginians." Can the ads go too far? How far is too far? Democratic Rep. Alan Grayson of Florida sought to cast his GOP opponent, Daniel Webster, as a religious extremist and labeled him "Taliban Dan" in an ad. But it turned out that Grayson used quotes selectively, altering the meaning of Webster's words in the ad. It shows a clip of Webster addressing a religious group. In the edited clip, Webster says: "Wives, submit yourself to your own husband. ... She should submit to me. That's in the Bible." The unedited clip, however, reveals a different meaning. "I have (Bible) verses for my wife. Don't pick the ones that say she should submit to me. That's in the Bible, but pick the ones that you're supposed to do. So, instead, that you love your wife." Grayson defended the ad on CNN, but said it was no longer on the air. "This is the gotcha campaign," said CMAG's

Tracey. "Everybody is just out there with their video rolling at all times trying to find that little snippet to make part of their ad. No wonder these candidates are ducking." To be sure, ads aren't meant to be fair. Democrats use clips of Republicans calling for changes in Social Security but edit out caveats that say no change should affect current recipients. Likewise, Republicans accuse Democrats of cutting Medicare but don't mention that the cuts are over 10 years and represent a small fraction of Medicare spending. "Context," Tracey said, "is the job of the other guy."

October 18, 2010

The South Carolina Supreme Court is to hear arguments on whether poker is a game of luck or skill. The Post and Courier of Charleston reported the justices are to hear arguments on Tuesday on an appeal of a local judge's ruling that Texas Hold'em is a game of skill, not chance. Circuit Judge Markley Dennis' ruling meant that playing the game in a private home does not violate the state's anti-gambling laws. Attorney General Henry McMaster is appealing Dennis' decision. Dennis' decision overturned the conviction of five people who had been arrested when police raided a card game in Mount Pleasant four years ago. The judge said skilled players generally beat those with fewer skills and players improve with practice. It's expected to be several months before the justices make a decision.

October 27, 2010

Two South Carolina candidates for governor faced each other in their final debate before [the election](#) Tuesday night in Florence. Democrat Vincent Sheheen said he'll do whatever it takes to make an interstate to Myrtle Beach a reality, while Republican Nikki Haley said she can't support tolls or a national infrastructure bank. Both [candidates](#) said in Tuesday's debate at Francis Marion University that Interstate 73 is critical to economic development. The idea to build an interstate to the heart of South Carolina's \$18 billion tourism industry has languished for years. Haley said she'll work with South Carolina's congressmen to make it happen but didn't specify how, except to say "we can't earmark that to death." Sheheen says things don't just happen on their own. South Carolina's 90-mile portion of the interstate is expected to cost \$2.5 billion. Tuesday night's debate was the last of their three debates. On Monday, Haley and Sheheen met for a debate in Columbia. That debate was broadcast statewide on South Carolina Educational Television. Green Party candidate Morgan Reeves is also running for governor. Reeves said he was not invited to attend the debates.

October 27, 2010

Results will be certified on Thursday, but it appears Phyllis Henderson has won the [GOP](#) runoff election for House District 21. Republican [voters](#) in Greenville County went to the polls Tuesday for a special runoff election. Phyllis Henderson got 51 percent, Keith Smith had 49 percent of the vote. A total of 1,375 votes were cast for Henderson and 1,296 for Smith. The GOP candidate will face Democrat Susan Scarborough Smith in the Dec. 14 election. The winner of the special election will take the seat of Bill Wylie, who died last month while on vacation.

November 2, 2010

South Carolina Republican Jim DeMint, as expected, has won re-election to the Senate, defeating Democrat Alvin Greene. Greene shocked and sometimes embarrassed his party by winning the Senate primary as a complete unknown. The unemployed military veteran is still facing obscenity charges involving a teenage [college student](#). DeMint spent very little time in South Carolina campaigning for the post ahead of Tuesday's election.

November 2, 2010

Republican Jeff Duncan is moving from the South Carolina Statehouse to the U.S. House. Duncan beat Democrat Jane Dyer on Tuesday for the 3rd District seat left open when U.S. Rep. Gresham Barrett unsuccessfully ran for the GOP's nomination for governor. Duncan is a four-term state legislator who wants to end Social Security for Americans currently being born and wants to change the Constitution so children of illegal immigrants born in the U.S. aren't automatically granted citizenship. Dyer is a pilot for FedEx and a former Air Force captain who also ran for the seat in 2008 and lost. The 3rd District covers 10 counties in northwestern South Carolina and includes Clemson, the nearby Oconee Nuclear Station and the Savannah River Site.

November 2, 2010

Republican Trey Gowdy has been elected to Congress. Gowdy beat Democrat Paul Corden and several third-party candidates Tuesday in South Carolina's heavily conservative 4th District, anchored by Greenville and Spartanburg. Gowdy is the chief prosecutor in Spartanburg and Cherokee counties. He says he took advantage of people frustrated with government who wanted a new voice in Washington. In June,

Gowdy knocked off incumbent Bob Inglis in the GOP primary with 79 percent of the vote. Inglis blamed his loss on the district moving further right and did not make an endorsement in the general election.

November 2, 2010

Voters have elected South Carolina's first woman governor. Tea-party backed Republican state Rep. [Nikki Haley](#) will also become the nation's second Indian-American governor when she replaces term-limited Gov. Mark Sanford. Louisiana's Bobby Jindal also is Indian-American. "I want this to be history," Haley said during her acceptance speech Tuesday night. "We're turning a page. We're turning a page on where we've been, but the history will be on where we go." Haley won over state Sen. Vincent Sheheen in a contest that flipped between the candidates by the minute. "At the end of the day, we can say we fought the good fight, we completed the race and we kept the faith," Sheheen said in his concession speech. Haley is a three-term House member who campaigned as a political outsider and earned the backing of Sarah Palin. The 38-year-old married mother of two beat back unproven accusations of infidelity and questions about her [finances](#) and experience. "What I'm telling you today is you've taken a chance on me," said Haley during her acceptance speech Tuesday night. "I will never stop trying to make you proud." Sheheen made the contest closer than anyone expert had expected.

November 2, 2010

Seizing control of the House and gaining strength in the Senate, triumphant Republicans ushered in a new era of divided government Wednesday and served notice they will confront President Barack Obama with a conservative agenda to cut government and spur private-sector jobs. "We've been given a second chance and a golden opportunity," Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia, No. 2 Republican in the House, said as his party reaped a windfall from independent voters and tea party activists. He called the outcome a rejection of Obama more than an endorsement of the GOP, cautioning fellow Republicans they must to work to win public confidence. "People want to see results," he said on CBS's "The Early Show." "They want to see the government go on a diet just like they have." Republicans scored the biggest party turnover in more than 70 years Tuesday with their win in the House and, in doing so, will dethrone Democratic Rep. Nancy Pelosi - a prime target of their campaign - who had crashed a political glass ceiling and made history with her elevation to speaker four years ago. Nevada Sen. Harry Reid, the Senate majority leader, overcame a tea party challenge from Republican Sharron Angle in one of the election's most brutally fought races. Sizing up the new order, Reid said he wants to preserve Obama's sweeping [health](#) care law and let taxes rise on upper income Americans but "I'm not bullheaded." "If we need to work something out with the people who are really rich, I'll have to look at that," he told CNN's "American Morning." "If there's some tweaking we need to do with the [health care](#) bill, I'm ready for some tweaking. But I'm not going to in any way denigrate the great work we did as a country, and saving America from bankruptcy because of the insurance industry bankrupting us." Republican Rand Paul, who won a Kentucky Senate seat in a race powered by tea party support, said Americans need not fear gridlock in the next Congress because "debate is healthy." "It seems like the most fiscally conservative government is always divided government," Paul said on NBC's "Today" show. At the White House the morning after, senior Obama aides were noticeably absent from TV shows, where they normally appear after major events to put their spin on developments. All morning long, administration officials were staying silent so that Obama himself would have the first say, at a 1 p.m. EDT news conference. Obama called Ohio Rep. John Boehner, the House speaker-in-waiting, to congratulate him late Tuesday. He also spoke with Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell and top Democrats in a series of conversations that reflected the shifting balance of power. Incomplete returns showed the GOP picked up at least 60 House seats and led for four more, far in excess of what was needed for a majority. About two dozen races remained too close to call. On their night of triumph, Republicans also gained at least six Senate seats, and tea party favorites Paul in Kentucky, Mike Lee in Utah and Marco Rubio in Florida were among their winners. Not all the tea party insurgents won. Christine O'Donnell lost badly in Delaware, for a seat that Republican strategists once calculated would be theirs with ease until her stunning upset victory in the primary. O'Donnell's campaign was hobbled by revelations about her background and personal finances but she squarely blamed the party for the size of her loss. "Republican cannibalism," she said Wednesday on CNN. "Had we united as a party from top all way down, we could have articulately gotten that message out. Instead there was infighting." In Nevada, Reid dispatched Angle in an especially costly and contentious campaign in a year filled with them. Not all the tea party insurgents won. Christine O'Donnell lost badly in Delaware, for a seat that Republican strategists once calculated would be theirs with ease. And in Nevada, Reid dispatched Angle in an especially costly and contentious campaign in a year filled with them. His win left three races still unresolved - in Colorado, Washington and Alaska, where Sen. Lisa Murkowski ran as a write-in candidate after losing the Republican nomination earlier this fall. The GOP also wrested 10 governorships from the Democrats, Ohio and Pennsylvania among them, and gave two back, California and Hawaii. In New York, Andrew Cuomo won the office his father, Mario, held for three terms. And in California, Jerry Brown was successful in his bid for a comeback to the governor's office he occupied for two terms more than a quarter-century ago. The biggest win by far was the House, a victory made all the more remarkable given the drubbing Republicans absorbed at the hands of Democrats in the past two elections. Their comeback was aided by independents, who backed GOP candidates for the first time since 2004, by a margin of 55 percent to 39 percent. Women backed Democrats 49-48, after favoring them by a dozen points in recent elections. The takeaways came in bunches - five Democratic-held seats each in Pennsylvania and Ohio and three in Florida and Virginia. Incumbents sent to defeat included three committee chairmen, Ike Skelton in Missouri, James Oberstar in Minnesota and John Spratt in South Carolina, as well as Paul Kanjorski of Pennsylvania, in Congress more than a quarter-century. Republicans campaigned calling for spending cuts to reduce deficits, extension of expiring tax cuts for all and repeal of Obama's cherished health care bill - all areas ripe for confrontation in the months ahead. With unemployment at 9.6 percent nationally, interviews with voters revealed an extraordinarily sour electorate, stressed financially and poorly disposed toward the president, the political parties and the federal government. Sen.-elect Paul, appearing Tuesday night before supporters in Bowling Green, Ky., declared, "We've come to take our government back." About four in 10 voters said they were worse off financially than two years ago, according to exit polls and pre-election surveys. More than one in three said their votes were an expression of opposition to Obama. More than half expressed negative views about both political parties.

Roughly 40 percent of voters considered themselves supporters of the conservative tea party movement. Less than half said they wanted the government to do more to solve problems. Republicans were certain of at least six Senate pickups, including the seat in Illinois that Obama resigned to become president. Rep. Mark Kirk won there, defeating Alexi Giannoulas. Democratic Sens. Russell Feingold in Wisconsin and Blanche Lincoln in Arkansas were turned out of office. In addition, Republicans scored big in races for Democratic seats without incumbents on the ballot. Former Rep. Pat Toomey won a close race in Pennsylvania, North Dakota Gov. John Hoeven won easily there, and former Sen. Dan Coats breezed in a comeback attempt for the Indiana seat he voluntarily gave up a dozen years ago. Democrats averted deeper losses when Gov. Joe Manchin won in West Virginia - after pointedly distancing himself from Obama - for the unexpired portion of the late Sen. Robert C. Byrd's term, and Attorney General Richard Blumenthal was victorious in Connecticut, dispatching Linda McMahon, former CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment. Sen. Barbara Boxer was elected to a fourth term in California, overcoming a challenge from Carly Fiorina. The GOP gubernatorial gains came after a campaign in which their party organization spent more than \$100 million, nearly double what Democrats had. Among the incumbents who fell were Ted Strickland in Ohio, defeated by former Rep. John Kasich, and Chet Culver in Iowa, loser to former Gov. Terry Branstad. In a footnote to the brutal politics of the campaign, Republican-turned-independent Lincoln Chafee was elected governor of Rhode Island. Obama campaigned in the state in the campaign's final week. But he declined to endorse the Democratic candidate, Frank Caprio, out of what the White House said was respect for Chafee, who had endorsed the president in his own presidential race two years ago. A Republican takeover of the House ushers in a new era of divided government after two years in which Obama and fellow Democrats pushed through an economic stimulus bill, a landmark health care measure and legislation to rein in Wall Street after the near collapse of the economy in 2008. Paul's triumph in Kentucky completed an improbable rise for an eye surgeon making his first race. He drew opposition from the Republican Party establishment when he first launched his bid, then struggled to adjust to a statewide race with Attorney General Jack Conway. Rubio, also running with tea party support, won with 49 percent of the vote in a three-way race in Florida, months after he forced Gov. Charlie Crist to leave the Republican Party and run as an independent. Democratic Rep. Kendrick Meek ran third. But a third tea party-backed candidate, O'Donnell, who went from a virtual unknown to primary winner to fodder for late-night comedians in the span of a few months, lost overwhelmingly to Democrat Chris Coons in Delaware. Republicans had counted on taking the seat from the Democrats early this year, but that was before O'Donnell defeated veteran Rep. Mike Castle in a September primary. Democrat John Carney easily won the seat that was Castle's for nearly two decades. Not all the Republican newcomers were party crashers. In New Hampshire, Republican Kelly Ayotte won a Senate seat, defeating Democratic Rep. Paul Hodes. Former Bush administration official Rob Portman won a seat in Ohio, and Rep. Jerry Moran won in Kansas and Rep. Roy Blunt in Missouri. Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont was re-elected to his seventh term and Barbara Mikulski her fifth. New York Sens. Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand also won, as did Sen. Ron Wyden in Oregon and Boxer in California. In Hawaii, Democratic Sen. Daniel Inouye was elected for a ninth time to the seat he has held since 1962. Republican Sen. Jim DeMint, who won a second term in South Carolina, has been working to establish a nationwide standing among conservatives. He was instrumental in supporting tea party challengers in several primaries this spring and summer at a time the GOP establishment was backing other candidates. In Alabama, Sen. Richard Shelby was re-elected easily, as were Republican Sens. Tom Coburn in Oklahoma, Richard Burr in North Carolina, John Thune in South Dakota, Johnny Isakson in Georgia, David Vitter in Louisiana, John McCain in Arizona, Chuck Grassley in Iowa and Mike Crapo in Idaho.

November 7, 2010

South Carolina's high court has overturned the conviction of a man arrested for preaching against homosexuality on a sidewalk in downtown Greenville. The state Supreme Court on Monday said the city ordinance prohibiting humiliating, offensive, scary or obscene comments is too vague to be enforced and is therefore unconstitutional. Joseph Bane and another street preacher were arrested in 2007 and accused of shouting at a lesbian couple. Bane was convicted but Joshua Glidewell was cleared. Bane's attorney had said police can use the ordinance to threaten people, restricting their free speech rights. Attorneys for Greenville argued the city wants to protect people from harassment. Neither attorney immediately returned messages Monday.

November 10, 2010

The South Carolina [Department of Transportation](#) has some plans to make driving easier along a busy stretch of road in Greenville County. SCDOT officials said they plan to widen Batesville Road from Highway 14 to Godfrey Road, including the addition of a third lane, sidewalks and a bike lane. They said the goal is to make the road safer for pedestrians and cyclist. The project has a budget of \$9 million, officials said. The department plans to purchase right-of-ways in 2012 and [construction](#) will start in 2013. The plan calls for the project to be completed by 2014. There is some debate on how to make the plan a reality, however. Officials said that they have two options on the table that center around Ebenezer United Methodist Church. "The first option is to widen through the cemetery and having to move about 100 graves," said SCDOT program manager Tommy Elrod. "The other option is to move Batesville Road to the other side of the church and not having to move graves." DOT officials said that public comment will be accepted for the next two weeks and then a decision will be made.

November 18, 2010

After meeting with President Barack Obama Thursday, Democratic leaders in Congress said they plan to hold a series of politically charged votes to extend middle-class tax cuts while letting tax cuts for the wealthy expire. Republicans are expected to block the plan, leaving both

sides back at square one as they try to negotiate a deal to spare families at every income level from a big tax increase in January. Democratic officials said Obama did not embrace a particular approach to the tax cuts in his Oval Office meeting with Democratic leaders. He indicated he wanted to wait for a meeting with Democratic and Republican leaders on Nov. 30 before staking out a position. "I think there's a reality here which is that while it might be best to continue the middle-class tax cuts and raise taxes on higher income people, the votes are not there to do that," said Sen. Joseph Lieberman, a Connecticut independent who caucuses with the Democrats. "I think everybody's got to deal with a stark reality which is, are we going to leave here knowing that we haven't come to an agreement and that everybody's taxes are going to go up Jan. 1?" Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said he would like to schedule competing votes on the Senate floor. One would be on Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell's bill to make all the tax cuts permanent; the other would be on a Democratic plan to extend only the middle class tax cuts. Neither is expected to pass. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said she plans to hold a similar vote on extending the middle-class tax cuts in early December. "We're united in recognizing we have to protect the middle class," Reid said of Senate Democrats. McConnell said, "Votes structured for symbolic reasons in December won't prevent a tax hike in January. It's not enough to talk about the problem of the looming tax hike on families and hundreds of thousands of [small businesses](#) across the country, we have to fix it." Obama and Democratic leaders in Congress want to extend the tax cuts for individuals making less than \$200,000 and married couples making less than \$250,000. Republicans and a growing number of rank-and-file Democrats want to extend them all. After congressional elections in which Republicans won control of the House and gained seats in the Senate, Obama signaled a willingness to compromise with Republicans. But Democrats are struggling to come up with a unified position. Congress returned this week for a lame-duck session in which Democrats still have majorities in both the House and Senate. However, they will need Republican support to get the 60 votes necessary to pass a tax bill in the Senate. Democratic leaders left their White House meeting with Obama Thursday without a game plan for negotiating with Republicans. Later, Senate Democrats met behind closed doors for more than two hours, but didn't agree on a strategy beyond trying to prevent a tax increase for the middle class. "Most think that it makes sense to maintain the tax cuts for those below \$200,000, couples below \$250,000, and there's a lot of discussion about all kinds of other options and there's basically no decision made," said Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. Obama had invited GOP leaders to the White House meeting, to start laying the groundwork for a bipartisan compromise, but the Republicans asked to reschedule the meeting after Thanksgiving. Republicans have been much more unified in their position. Most say their first choice is to make all the tax cuts permanent; some have said they are open to a temporary extension of all the tax cuts. "While some in Congress have a strange desire to raise taxes on hundreds of thousands of small [businesses](#) across the country, Republicans and a growing chorus of Democrats believe that no one should have the government take even more out of their paycheck next year," McConnell said.

November 18, 2010

It takes a lot of hard work to start a business, but Kelly Blackwell knew it was something she really wanted to do. "When I decided to come downtown, I wanted to be part of the downtown revitalization," Blackwell said. She's now the owner of "Two Doors Down," a boutique in downtown Spartanburg. She opened the shop two years ago. "I do think we need more restaurants downtown, more retail stores," Blackwell said. "We have all these beautiful buildings that are unoccupied." Blackwell, like other Spartanburg business owners, are hoping new decisions could give the area and her business a boost. Right now, there are some vacant buildings and store fronts that she said could use new looks. That is something city leaders in Spartanburg said they are working on. "The city of Spartanburg has been working on the downtown master urban code for about four years," said Planning Director Stephanie Monore. Monore said the code deals with things like the look of lower-level store fronts and the height of buildings. "What we're trying to do is get more foot traffic on the street by looking at the streetscapes, by looking at the width of the sidewalks, by looking at how the building relates to the street," Monore said. Monore said the Planning Commission is working on tweaking the code to potentially implement ideas that could bring more people and businesses to downtown Spartanburg. If that happens, it could mean Blackwell's hard work at her shop will pay off, and for those visiting downtown Spartanburg. "I think it would help all of us down here," Blackwell said. The Planning Commission will meet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday in City Council chambers to discuss ideas. The meeting is open to the public. If a recommendation is approved it will then be presented to City Council.

December 5, 2010

South Carolina Gov.-elect [Nikki Haley](#) has picked BMW executive and former newspaper editor Bobby Hitt to lead the state Commerce Department.

The announcement Monday is Haley's first Cabinet choice. It comes four weeks after she won the election to become the state's first female and first minority governor. Hitt has been a spokesman for BMW since it opened its South Carolina plant in the early 1990s. The [state Senate](#) must confirm Haley's choice to lead one of 15 Cabinet agencies overseen by the governor. Haley will be sworn into office next month.

December 7, 2010

Firing back at his Democratic critics, President Barack Obama on Tuesday crisply defended concessions he made to Republicans as part of a tax cut compromise, saying, "I'm not here to play games with the American people or the [health](#) of the economy." At a news conference called on short notice, the president said that if approved by Congress, the agreement "would mean real money, it will make a real difference in the lives of the people who sent us here." Top Democrats in Congress signaled they will seek changes in the agreement. "It's something that's not done yet," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. "We're going to have to do some more work," Reid said after a closed-door meeting with Vice President Joe Biden and members of the Democratic rank-and-file. Across the Capitol, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, normally one of Obama's staunchest allies, made plain her unhappiness, issuing a statement that contained no commitment to help pass the

plan. "We will continue discussions with the president and our caucus in the days ahead." The deal, which officials said would add approximately \$900 billion to the deficits over two years, includes an extension of expiring income tax cuts at all income levels, a renewal of jobless benefits and a one-year cut in Social Security taxes paid by workers. Democratic opposition focused chiefly on two parts of the deal that marked concessions to Republicans - the decision to let expiring income tax cuts remain in effect for the upper income, and a change in the estate tax that the GOP has long sought. Obama readily conceded he had bowed to Republican demands to extend tax cuts to those with the highest incomes as well as to the middle class, one of the principal criticisms leveled by Democrats in Congress and those in organized labor who normally stand shoulder to shoulder with him on economic issues. But the president said his only alternative was gridlock in Congress. After the meeting with Biden, Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska quoted him as saying, "It's a bad situation and a good deal." House Democrats arranged a similar closed-door meeting for late in the day, but it was not known if Biden would attend. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said he thinks the "vast majority" of GOP senators will support the plan. The administration mounted a full-scale defense of the agreement, saying it would pump billions into the economy at a time the economy is recovering from the worst recession in eight decades and unemployment stands at 9.8 percent. Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, a Democrat-turned-independent, urged support for the plan. "This tentative agreement is an example of Washington working across party lines to confront the challenges facing our nation," he said. But in public and private, Democrats expressed anger that Obama had bowed to Republican demands to extend the expiring tax cuts on the upper income and make additional concessions to the GOP on estate tax relief. Republican officials said Biden had played a key role in negotiations on the deal, and had spoken often in recent days with McConnell. Biden also fielded complaints from Pelosi and other Democrats in a meeting Saturday night, and again on Monday at the White House before the president announced publicly he had agreed on a framework agreement with the GOP. The liberal group MoveOn, which claims 5 million members, came out against the plan, saying the wealthiest Americans don't need tax cuts that were scheduled to expire this month. "The president's commitment to bipartisanship should not mean leaving principles behind," MoveOn said. But Biden urged congressional Democrats to quickly embrace the plan, saying Congress needs to move on to other issues before the Democrats lose control of the House in January. The president has made ratification of a new arms control treaty with Russia a top year-end priority. Both houses must approve any tax bill. In her statement, Pelosi said the compromise plan shows that Democrats want to help low- and middle-income workers while the GOP's chief concern is the wealthiest Americans. But others noted that Obama had abandoned a long-held position in fashioning the compromise. Obama promised in his 2008 campaign - and many times since - that these breaks would be continued only for the middle-class. But some in his own party and liberal groups attacked the new tax plan, and even the Democratic [leadership](#) in Congress gave it a cool, noncommittal reception. Besides holding current tax rates in place for all, the proposal would extend unemployment benefits and reduce payroll taxes for a year, which would help many lower-income Americans. Obama has said that he still prefers to let the tax cuts expire for households earning more than \$250,000 a year. Obama, while acknowledging Democratic unrest, agreed to extend all the tax breaks for two years, noting that Republicans wanted a permanent extension. The emerging agreement includes tax breaks for businesses that the president said would contribute to the economy's recovery from the worst recession in eight decades. The proposed Social Security tax cut would apply to virtually every working American. For one year they would pay 4.2 percent of their income, instead of 6.2 percent, to the government retirement program, fattening U.S. paychecks by \$120 billion in 2011. Someone earning \$40,000 a year would receive a \$800 benefit, and a \$70,000 earner would save \$1,400, officials said. More than three-fourths of all Americans pay more in these so-called payroll taxes than in federal income taxes. The White House said money from other sources would be shifted so the Social Security trust fund loses no revenue. Obama said he reluctantly made another concession to Republicans, concerning the estate tax. It would tax estates worth more than \$5 million at a rate of 35 percent, a GOP goal. Democrats favored a \$3.5 million threshold, with a 45 percent tax on anything higher. Obama's willingness to compromise with Republicans comes a month after the GOP won resounding victories in congressional, gubernatorial and state legislative elections.

December 7, 2010

The head of South Carolina's Commerce Department said jobs are on the way during Gov. Mark Sanford's final cabinet meeting Tuesday. Commerce Secretary Joe Taylor said a "phenomenal" number of jobs will be available in the next couple of years. Agency heads were asked to cite how they have improved the lives of South Carolinians. Taylor praised the whole Cabinet for helping him sell the state. South Carolina's jobless [rate](#) has been persistently high during Sanford's tenure. It was 10.7 percent in October, the most recent report available. But Taylor said South Carolina led the Southeast in job recruitment last year and had its best year in 2008. Taylor said large plants soon to be built include Boeing's 787 assembly plant in North Charleston and ZF Group's [transmission](#) plant in Laurens County.

December 13, 2010

South Carolina Gov.-elect Nikki Haley and the state's congressional delegation said they have agreed on key issues facing the state. Haley met Monday with freshmen Reps. Jeff Duncan, Trey Gowdy, Mick Mulvaney and Tim Scott, along with U.S. House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn and Rep. Joe Wilson and U.S. Sens. Lindsey Graham and Jim DeMint. Scott attended the meeting by phone. Haley said at a news conference afterward that good communication between state and federal legislators has never been more important. Haley said the group spoke about stalled efforts for a nuclear waste site in Nevada, the nation's [new health care law](#) and dealing with illegal immigration. The Republican said she [plans](#) to have quarterly meetings with the group.

December 15, 2010

Greenville will play host to the first-in-the-South Republican [presidential debate](#) in May, according to South Carolina GOP spokesman Joel Sawyer. The announcement was made at the Peace Center on Wednesday morning. Sawyer said the GOP is partnering with FOX News to put the debate together on May 5, 2011 at the Peace Center. Potential Republican presidential contenders include former Alaska Gov. Sarah

Palin, former [House Speaker Newt Gingrich](#), and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. None of those have confirmed they intend to run for the office in 2012.

December 16, 2010

Counterterrorism officials are tracking threats to the U.S. and Europe from al-Qaida and affiliated groups during the holiday season, authorities said. They have not yet seen evidence of specific plots aimed at the U.S. The FBI and Homeland Security Department have alerted state and local law enforcement to be wary of suspicious behavior and to regularly change security measures to interfere with any terrorist plans. The warning was sent in a bulletin Wednesday, obtained by The Associated Press. It did not include information about specific plots or intelligence. On Saturday, a suicide bomber blew himself up on a pedestrian street in Stockholm, Sweden, killing himself and injuring two people. Iraqi officials say that captured insurgents said this week that the suicide bombing was part of attacks being planned by al-Qaida against the U.S. and Europe during the Christmas season. Even before the revelations from the captured Iraqi insurgents, U.S. counterterrorism officials were tracking threat streams from al-Qaida operatives hiding in Pakistan and Yemen. There is specific intelligence on other attacks being planned against Europe during the holiday season, according to U.S. officials speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss security matters. While intelligence officials have not uncovered specific details of threats aimed at the U.S., they cannot be ruled out, the officials said. Still, the spate of attempted attacks against the U.S. in the past year - particularly the Nigerian man charged with trying to take down an airplane last Christmas - has U.S. officials on high alert. "We are concerned these terrorists may seek to exploit the likely significant psychological impact of an attack targeting mass gatherings in large metropolitan areas during the 2010 holiday season, which has symbolic importance to many in the United States," the joint FBI and Homeland Security bulletin said. The Homeland Security Department would not comment on specific intelligence. But the U.S. government has been warning Americans since October to be vigilant when they travel to and within Europe because of terror threats directed at the region. Earlier this month a Portland man was caught in an FBI sting operation as he allegedly planned to set off a bomb at a crowded Christmas tree lighting ceremony. And in October, al-Qaida's Yemeni offshoot - which also claimed responsibility for the Christmas airliner attack - tried to blow up two cargo planes over the U.S. That plot was foiled after officials received a tip from Saudi intelligence. Counterterrorism officials said they could not discount potential threats from other terror groups, such as al-Qaida's offshoots in Iraq and the Islamic Maghreb, Pakistan and Somalia. "Al-Qaida and other terrorist groups continue to seek innovative ways to conduct attacks and circumvent security procedures, and we remain concerned that the holiday season provides attractive opportunities for terrorists to target the homeland," the intelligence bulletin said.

December 20, 2010

The Census Bureau says the U.S. population is 308.7 million, reflecting the lowest growth since [the Great Depression](#). Census Bureau Director Robert Groves says the figure represents an increase of 9.7 percent over the 2000 U.S. resident population of 281.4 million. California is the most populous state with 37.2 million residents. Wyoming is the least populous with 563,626 residents. Since the 2000 census, Texas gained the most people, up 4.3 million residents to 25.1 million. Nevada has gained the most residents as a percentage of its 2000 census count, growing 35.1 percent to 2,700,551. The South and the West showed the strongest growth, although the Northeast and the Midwest also grew. Meanwhile, eight states -- including GOP-leaning Texas and Florida -- are gaining 12 congressional seats in the new census count; nine states will lose representatives.

Attachments



Jobs, Economy, Growth

**ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
FOURTH QUARTER 2010**

Problem/Need: **JOBS/ECONOMY/GROWTH**

DATE

October 7, 2010

Job openings rose in August for the second straight month and layoffs dropped sharply, evidence that the job market is slowly healing. The number of jobs advertised rose nearly 2 percent, to 3.2 million, the Labor Department said Thursday. That's the highest level since April, when temporary census hiring inflated that month's figure. Job openings at private companies rose slightly to 2.85 million, the highest in 21 months. Among the fields seeing large increases were professional and business services and the hospitality industry. The gains could signal more hiring in the months to come. Economists say more openings generally lead to hiring increases about 30 to 90 days later. Even with more openings, the number of available jobs is far below the 4.4 million advertised in December 2007, when the recession began. Private-sector layoffs, meanwhile, dropped sharply to 1.6 million in August, the lowest in more than four years. In a separate report Thursday, the Labor Department said that weekly [applications](#) for unemployment benefits fell last week to their lowest level in nearly three months. First-time jobless claims dropped by 11,000 to 445,000, the department said. Still, claims remain above levels that would indicate rapid hiring. In a healthy economy, applications for jobless aid usually drop below 400,000. And while the number of jobs advertised has risen sharply in the past year, that hasn't led to greater hiring. Job openings have increased by 863,000, or 37 percent, since they bottomed out at 2.3 million in July 2009, according to the Labor department's Job Openings and Labor Turnover survey, or JOLTS. But the pace of hiring hasn't picked up as much. Overall, employers hired 4.1 million people in August, an increase of only 71,000 from July 2009, the survey said. The unemployment rate has actually increased during that time, from 9.4 percent to 9.6 percent. Economists have cited several reasons for the disparity. Many of the unemployed lost jobs in construction or manufacturing, and may not have the skills to find work in sectors where jobs available, such as health care. And many of those out of work may not be able to move to areas that have more jobs, because they are unable to sell their [homes](#) in weak housing markets. More hiring is critical. Layoffs have dropped back to pre-recession levels. Private-sector layoffs have dropped by almost 1 million since their peak during the recession of 2.5 million, reached in January 2009. The JOLTS report illustrates how much job churn the U.S. economy experiences each month. Private employers added a net total of 67,000 jobs in August, the government said last month. But the JOLTS report shows that behind that figure were much larger changes. Companies hired 3.9 million people in August. At the same time, 3.8 million people were laid off, quit or retired. Job openings rose to 689,000 in the professional and business sectors sector, from 564,000 in the previous month. Openings also rose in hotels and restaurants. Available jobs dropped in construction, manufacturing and retail.

October 26, 2010

A signage company will create 135 jobs with its new facility in Greenville County, officials with the South Carolina Department of Commerce announced Wednesday. Officials said Coast Sign Inc.'s announcement represents a \$2.4 million [investment](#) in the area. "Demand from our customers has grown substantially, and this new facility will help us meet that demand and increase our [market share](#)," said Coast Sign President Charlie Alemi. The company installs thousands of signs nationwide for a variety of businesses, but puts an emphasis on financial institutions, automotive companies and the hospitality industry. The new facility will be located at 1698 Perimeter Road in the South Carolina Technology and Aviation Center, and will open in the first quarter of 2011. The company said it will begin hiring for the new positions in about six weeks. Anyone interested in the jobs can call 714-999-1917.

November 4, 2010

Kohler said it is eliminating 85 jobs in Spartanburg County as weakness continues in the housing industry. The Herald-Journal of Spartanburg reported Kohler said Thursday the cuts in Spartanburg are part of 750 jobs being eliminated from plumbing operations. Kohler spokesman Todd Weber said the reductions in Spartanburg are in [production](#) and administrative positions. Jim Westdrop with Kohler said there is no sign of recovery in the housing market. The company said not only are builders not building as many house, homeowners are not doing as much remodeling because they worry they won't recover the cost. It was not immediately clear if the Spartanburg workers will be offered severance [package](#) and help finding other jobs.

November 10, 2010

The South Carolina Education Lottery will close [prize](#) claim offices in Greenville and Mount Pleasant to save money. Lottery officials said in a news release Tuesday that winning tickets worth \$500 to \$100,000 can still be redeemed by mail. [Prizes](#) larger than that will have to be redeemed at the main office in Columbia. Prizes worth \$500 or less can be claimed at lottery retailers.

November 18, 2010

The number of Americans at risk of foreclosure improved slightly over the summer but hardly enough to suggest the crisis in the housing market is close to over. The Mortgage [Bankers](#) Association said Thursday about 9.1 percent of homeowners had missed at least one mortgage payment in the July-September quarter. That figure, which is adjusted for seasonal factors, fell from 9.9 percent in the April-June quarter and from a record high of more than 10 percent in the January-March quarter. The percentage of homes in the foreclosure process fell slightly to 4.4 percent from 4.6 percent, the trade group said. And the percentage of mortgage holders who were seriously delinquent, at least 90 days past due, fell to 4.3 percent from 4.8 percent. In a normal market, the percentage of seriously delinquent borrowers is around 1.1 percent, said Michael Fratantoni, MBA's vice president of research and economics. The drop in the delinquency rate reflects a slightly better jobs market, Fratantoni said, but delinquencies and foreclosures remain elevated. They are expected to stay that way as long as unemployment is high and home values continue to fall. "We still have three to four years to work through this overhang of delinquent loans, Fratantoni said. The foreclosure crisis started years ago when borrowers took out risky loans with variable [interest rates](#) that they couldn't afford. Many also qualified for mortgages without providing documented proof of income. But now, the foreclosure crisis is spreading to homeowners with good credit who took out safe, fixed-rate mortgages. The foreclosure start rate for those with fixed-rate mortgages set a record high of 0.93 percent in the July-September quarter, according to the report. Allegations of faulty foreclosure paperwork will likely increase the foreclosure inventory in the next two quarters, the MBA estimates. Several major lenders have temporarily suspended foreclosures to review thousands of cases for improper handling. Attorney generals in all 50 states launched a joint investigation into the issue. However, this will only delay foreclosure sales coming on to the market, not stop them. Lenders are on track to take back more than 1 million homes this year, according to foreclosure listing service RealtyTrac Inc. That will continue to weigh on home values because foreclosures are sold at deep discounts and slow the country's housing recovery.

December 7, 2010

Facebook said Tuesday that it has begun hiring local contractors for the construction of its newest [data center](#). The social networking website said that in the first three weeks of the project it has hired Tri City Concrete Company and Garbage Disposal Service, as well as electrical workers to begin the construction phase. "Our goal is to hire locally wherever possible," said Tom Furlong, Facebook's director of site operations. "It makes sense for us economically, and it's the right thing to do." According to the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, subcontractors interested in work at the site should send relevant information to the project's general manager at construction@rutherforddatacenter.com. The chamber said that people seeking work at the [data](#) center should regularly check facebook.com/rutherforddatacenter for updates about available jobs. The construction phase will eventually employ about 250 people, the chamber said. Once completed, the data center will employ between 35 and 45 full-time workers.

December 8, 2010

Internet retailer [Amazon.com](#) plans to build a warehouse in Lexington County that could bring more than 1,200 new jobs to the region. Amazon executive Fred Kiga announced the company's plans Tuesday after the Lexington County Council approved incentives that included tax breaks and donating 90 acres of land near Interstates 77 and 26. Kiga said construction should begin in January. The warehouse is expected to open before Christmas 2011. Kiga said up to 2,500 temporary jobs could be added during the holidays, along with the 1,249 jobs the warehouse is expected to have at full capacity. Gov. Mark Sanford said Amazon's decision, along with [Boeing's](#) aircraft assembly plant in North Charleston, shows some of the nation's biggest companies want to locate in South Carolina.

December 15, 2010

It's Christmas time at FedEx in Greenville, and for the shipping company, it's the most wonderful time of year. One by one, each package was scanned and sent for a ride up the conveyor belt to a truck and towards its destination. It's a process workers at FedEx said they have down to a science. From the day after Thanksgiving to Christmas, FedEx ships more than 200 million packages. This year the company saw a 10 percent increase in deliveries. It thinks it's a sign that more folks are shopping this season. Monday was officially the busiest shipping day of the year, but Wednesday was the busiest delivery day.

December 15, 2010

The first electric bus produced at a South Carolina plant is moving off the assembly line and set to debut in the community. Officials with Colorado-based electric bus maker Proterra said Wednesday a ceremony Thursday morning in Greenville would mark the end of production for the 35-foot, black and white battery-powered [vehicle](#). Proterra president Jeff Granato said the firm expects to start work on a new assembly plant in the coming year and could make up to 1,500 [buses](#) by 2015. Granato said the firm is working with Clemson University and local technical schools to help train workers and is also hiring engineers and administrators for its staff.

December 17, 2010

South Carolina's unemployment rate improved for the third month in a row to 10.6 percent in November. The Department of Employment and Workforce reported Friday that the total number of jobs in South Carolina declined slightly from the previous month even though the jobless rate improved slightly from 10.7 percent in October. The state's unemployment rate has declined from an all-time high of 12.5 percent

in January. University of South Carolina economists said earlier this month that the state likely will have little or no job growth for the year and predicted only slight improvement next year.

December 22, 2010

Three companies said they'll invest \$56 million in South Carolina operations and create 149 jobs. Glass fiber reinforcement maker Owens [Corning](#) said it will invest \$36 million to expand production at its Aiken facility and add 24 jobs. That production line is expected to begin operating in mid-2012. Owens Corning is based in Toledo, Ohio. Geocent LLC is spending \$2 million on a North Charleston facility that will create 100 jobs as the New Orleans defense and [information technology](#) company which supports the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center there. ISO Poly Films Inc. will spend \$18 million to expand its facility in Laurens County and create 25 new jobs. The Gray Court-based company makes films for laminating, printing and coating.

Attachments



Quality of Life

**ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
FOURTH QUARTER 2010**

Problem/Need: **QUALITY OF LIFE**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Sundays 6:00am		MOUNT MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH
<u>Description:</u> A church service airing Sunday mornings. (1-hour)		
Sundays 8:30am		MUD CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
<u>Description:</u> A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)		
Sundays 9:30 am		TAYLORS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
<u>Description:</u> A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)		
Sundays 10:30am		FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
<u>Description:</u> A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)		

October 13, 2010

Blacksburg man won \$30,000 with his Powerball ticket, South Carolina [Education](#) Lottery officials said Wednesday. Paul Roberts correctly matched four of the five white balls and the red Powerball during Saturday's drawing, officials said. They said Roberts also purchased the PowerPlay option which multiplied his winnings. Roberts bought the ticket at the Bhardwaj Travel Center on Simper Road. The convenience store will receive \$300 for selling a [winning](#) ticket

October 18, 2010

The combination of warmer-than-average temperatures and autumn translates to an uptick of local state park goers, and an increase in sales for some local outdoor stores. Paris Mountain State Park in Greenville County was busy this weekend, rangers said. They said the campsites were full, and [picnic](#) areas were crowded. Rangers said they have seen an increased volume of people visiting the park, partly because they added new trails, but also because a down economy has more people staying closer to home. Employees at Half-Moon Outfitters said they have also noticed the "staycation" trend. Jay Ferguson, one employee, said he saw many shoppers this week who were headed out to hike, camp or climb. He said the [weather](#) has been perfect for outdoor activities, and that sales this season are above where they were last year. "I think finally people are realizing they've got to get out and spend their money," Ferguson said. "They can't save it forever. It's a pleasure sport, so it gets people out. They're not thinking about everything that's going bad with the economy." People looking for the peak in fall colors have some time to wait. The Asheville-Blue Ridge area, and even in some of the higher elevations in the Upstate, like at Caesars Head and Table Rock, will see peak color this week. Most elevations of South Carolina's Upstate, however, should expect the brightest red-and-orange leaves around Halloween.

October 18, 2010

A historic Seneca church was badly damaged by fire over the weekend. The fire happened late Saturday night at the Seneca Baptist Church. Firefighters said that when they arrived at the church, there were flames in the attic. The front of the building sustained the most damage. "This morning, we were standing here and watch the top of it that said 'Seneca Baptist Church' come tumbling down," said former church member Imogene Hunnicut. "It just broke my heart." "This church has got a lot of history in it," said Seneca firefighter Chris Cartee. "A lot of people were raised in this church, baptized here and had their weddings in this church. So, it's going to hit home for us." Firefighters said the building was being renovated by a new church. The cause of the blaze is under investigation.

October 25, 2010

Five people are dead following a wreck that involved several vehicles and shut down I-26 in Henderson County late Sunday night. The North Carolina Highway Patrol said the crash happened around 11 p.m. Sunday on the eastbound side of the interstate between mile markers 43 and 44. The crash involved nine vehicles, including two tractor-trailers. The Highway Patrol tells FOX Carolina five people died in the crash, and one other is in critical condition. Troopers tell us the fifth person died Tuesday morning. Troopers said truck driver Roumen Todorov

Velkov, 48, Beloit, Wis., was charged with four counts of involuntary manslaughter. Troopers haven't said if he will face a fifth count of involuntary manslaughter now that another person has died. Investigators said Velkov is being held on \$230,000 bond. Traffic was detoured around the accident scene for several hours, while reconstruction teams worked at the scene. Speed and inattention may have contributed to the crash, authorities said. The people who died in the crash are Amber Reed, 26, of Hendersonville, Theresa "Teri" Nicole Seaver, 23, of Pleasant Ridge Drive in Asheville, Charles "Chuck" Joseph Novak, 22, of Sugarloaf Road in Hendersonville, Gail Evans Kimble, 55, and Alvin Kimble Jr., 60, both of McLee Road in Lexington. Investigators said one other person involved in the accident is in critical condition at Mission Hospital this afternoon. Her name is Laci Fredericks. The interstate reopened just after 6 a.m. Monday. Stay with FOX Carolina for more on this developing story.

October 25, 2010

A Spartanburg pastor said he is getting death threats because he's called for another church leader's resignation. Prophet H. Walker of True Light Pentecost has asked Bishop Eddie Long of the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Atlanta to step down amid a sex scandal. Walker told Fox Carolina he is planning a rally in Atlanta this Sunday at the Georgia State Capitol at 2 p.m. He said he has received threatening e-mails, even some with pornographic images that had his picture on them, but the threats aren't going to stop his rally. Walker said he has since made contact with local authorities and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He said the investigators told him the letters came from people in Michigan, Georgia, and South Carolina. As of late Monday, the case was still under investigation.

November 2, 2010

South Carolina woman missing for several days has been taken to a hospital after being found alive along the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina. Assistant chief park ranger Lena Koschmann says Crystal Lynn Ham, of Elgin, was found Monday evening near Sparta. Because of the darkness and terrain, rescuers couldn't airlift the 25-year-old woman out until Tuesday morning. A crew of 13 rescuers, including paramedics, stayed with her overnight. She is currently being treated at a nearby hospital for exposure, hypothermia and dehydration. Koschmann said authorities are investigating what happened to Ham. She was last seen Oct. 26. Her [vehicle](#) was found on the parkway last week, about 17 miles south of the Virginia state line.

November 3, 2010

It's easier to get to the highest point in South Carolina, and it's easier to see the area from the top. The Natural Resources Department said in a news release Thursday that workers have trimmed some trees and put up a viewing stand near the top of Sassafras Mountain in Pickens County. The overlook allows views of the Blue Ridge Mountains in North and South Carolina, as well as lakes Jocassee, Keowee and Hartwell. Sassafras Mountain straddles the state border with North Carolina off U.S. 178 near Rocky Bottom. The agency plans a number of improvements at the 3,560-foot mountain, including a second, more extensive platform at the top of the mountain that would provide a 360-degree view of the surrounding mountains and valleys.

November 7, 2010

Thanksgiving came weeks early for some Upstate military families on Sunday thanks to some work by military support groups. Fifty-four men and women from the 151st National Guard Battalion left the region in July for Iraq, and many of their families will not see them again until next July. Since those soldiers will not be back before Thanksgiving, the local Rolling Thunder group, and the battalion's Family Readiness Group, organized a dinner to bring the families together. Before the turkey and fixings for a pre-Thanksgiving feast, the families said a prayer, at 1:05 p.m., the same time their soldiers prayed in Iraq. The Vassar family received a phone call from their soldier during the prayer. "We heard the phone ringing and I was a little bit embarrassed," said soldier's daughter, Courtney Church, "but then Mom said it was Dad and it was kind of cool, because we were here praying for him, and he called at the same time. So, it was kind of neat." The families regularly keep in touch with their soldiers via cell phones and Internet chats, but they said it's not the same as having them at home. Many said that the Thanksgiving meal reminded them that they are not alone, and that other families are experiencing the same distance. "It's nice to be together with family, and keep traditions going while they're still deployed," said Jessica Thomas. She and her children, parents, and in-laws ate and laughed together as they miss her husband, their father, and son, Sgt. Darrell Thomas. Maxine Downs could not contain her smile as she explained that her son's girlfriend, Tyanna Hardy, was in Iraq, and their family called her that morning, since it was her birthday. Hardy's son, AJ, is staying with the Downs while she is away. "He made a special little card for her," said Downs, "It said, 'Whenever you miss me, just touch my hand. I'm always near.'" Each family hung an ornament on a Christmas tree in the National Guard Armory at the Davidson Center to honor their soldiers. The Family Readiness Group planned a Christmas party for the 151st Battalion's families on Dec. 13.

November 7, 2010

South Carolina Education Lottery officials said that two tickets, now worth \$200,000 each, were sold in the Upstate. The first ticket, which matched five numbers during Saturday's Powerball drawing, was sold at the Save-A-Stop store at 2306 Flat Rock Road in Starr. The winning

numbers were 7, 12, 23, 34 and 38. The Powerball was 33. The PowerPlay was 4. The Powerball jackpot of \$128 million was won by a player in Michigan. The second ticket, which matched five numbers during Saturday's Palmetto [Cash 5](#) drawing, was sold at the Hot Spot store at 3180 N. Blackstock Road in Spartanburg. The winning numbers were 11, 13, 16, 22 and 27. The Power-Up was 2. Winners have 180 days from the date of the drawing to claim the [prize](#).

November 7, 2010

Charleston has won another travel honor. Travel + Leisure Magazine on Monday named Charleston the friendliest city in the nation. The magazine also named the city tops in [bed and breakfasts](#), inns and antique stores. Last month, Charleston was listed among the nation's top destinations by readers of Conde Nast Traveler magazine. Charleston placed second behind San Francisco. About 4 million people visit Charleston each year. Charleston and the rest of the South Carolina coast are the heart of the state's \$18 billion tourism industry.

November 10, 2010

South Carolina's [Medicaid](#) programs would stop paying doctors on March 4 unless plans are approved to cover a \$228 million deficit. The state Department of [Health](#) and Human Services on Tuesday released its report to the State Budget Office outlining the scope of shortfalls that touch the state's elderly, poor and disabled. The report said that the agency would encourage doctors to treat patients with no promise of payment and that the state would likely face federal sanctions for not complying with payment guidelines. The agency also said it would have to defend numerous lawsuits if the shortfall is not covered. The agency will present its plans to the state Budget and Control Board on Dec. 14.

November 10, 2010

A mail bomb intercepted last month at an English airport could have exploded over the East Coast of the United States, British police said Wednesday. Forensic evidence showed the device, originally sent from Yemen by way of Cologne, Germany, was timed to be detonated about six to seven hours after the cargo aircraft carrying it left the U.K. for the U.S. The package was removed by police in Britain during transit. "If the device had not been removed from the aircraft, the activation could have occurred over the eastern seaboard of the U.S.," police said in a statement. In Washington, the White House said the British finding showed how serious the attack was. Earlier this month, a senior U.S. official had said that while the exact aim of the attack was unclear, evidence pointed to a plot to blow up cargo planes inside the U.S., either on runways or over American cities. The UPS cargo plane intercepted in England left the country without the package at 3:20 a.m. GMT on Oct. 29 (11:20 p.m. EDT on Oct. 28), two hours after landing, police said. The device was timed to be activated at 9:30 a.m. GMT. (5:30 a.m. EDT), said British police. Authorities on both sides of the Atlantic said they only narrowly thwarted the plot, in which terrorists in Yemen hid two powerful bombs inside printers and shipped them to addresses in Chicago aboard two cargo planes. The printer cartridges were filled with PETN, an industrial explosive that, when X-rayed, would resemble the cartridges' ink powder. One bomb was intercepted at central England's East Midlands Airport and the other was discovered at a FedEx cargo facility in Dubai. The Yemen-based al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula has claimed responsibility for the bombs and has vowed to send more explosives-packed parcels. In Washington on Wednesday, White House spokesman Nicholas Shapiro said: "We greatly appreciate the highly professional nature of the U.K. investigation and the spirit of partnership with which U.K. authorities have pursued this matter." He praised the efforts of intelligence and law enforcement professionals in the U.K., the UAE, Saudi Arabia and the United States, and said they will continue to work together "to address and counter the threat posed by al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula."

November 17, 2010

A soldier from western North Carolina was killed in Afghanistan on Sunday, the soldier's family said. The family of 19-year-old Army Pfc. Christian Warriner said that they were informed of his death on Monday. Warriner's great-grandmother, Joyce, told FOX Carolina that he had been married to his high-school sweetheart for less than a year. Joyce Warriner said that her great-grandson joined the military immediately after high school and wanted to become a forest ranger after his deployment had ended. Christian Warriner was a 2009 graduate of West Henderson High School, according to the Asheville Citizen-Times. The [Department of Defense](#) had no details regarding Christian Warriner's death.

November 18, 2010

The South Carolina [Southern Baptist Convention](#) wrapped up Wednesday and approved resolutions against gambling and copper theft, but the one that's always the center of controversy is a resolution against homosexuality. "God created sex," said Dr. Doug Mize, of Taylors First Baptist Church. "He's the author of it, and it's his idea. Yay, God! Amen! But sex is only good when it's in the proper context. Just like a fire in a fireplace is a good thing. A fire in the living room, and we've got a problem." Mize said he attended the conference where pastors were encouraged to preach against homosexuality. "So whether it's premarital sex or adultery or homosexuality, that's not God's plan," said Mize. "It's clear in his word over and over again." In a statement released Wednesday, Upstate Pride South Carolina said while the group is not taking an official stance: "(We) believe that any views contrary to the advancement of the people in the LGBTQI community should be examined closely. It is cause for concern anytime that a specific group of people is singled-out for criticism." Mize said while the issues in the resolutions are important, he feels there are even bigger issues that should be addressed and preached about from the pulpit. "Some things we do at the South Carolina Southern Baptist Convention are more important than others," Mize said. "I'm not the biggest resolution fan."

Mize said he believes there are a number of issues or sinful behaviors that could be pointed out in future resolutions. He said from gluttony to greed to envy, everyone falls short. "The major thing we must do is share with this world that Jesus loves them and we love them," said Mize.

December 20, 2010

Hundreds of people lined up at the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte for a chance to have former President George W. Bush and former first lady Laura Bush sign copies of their books. Billy Graham and his son, Franklin, had lunch with the former president and first lady Monday before the [book](#) signing. The evangelist hugged the former president before leaving them in the [library book](#) store for the signings. The former president has been on tour signing copies of his book "Decision Points" and Laura Bush was signing copies of her book, "Spoken From the Heart." Franklin Graham said his 92-year-old father is as sharp as he's been in the past five years. The event sold out in a matter of hours Saturday. Library officials would not say how many people obtained the wristbands necessary for admission.

December 22, 2010

The Marine Corps Casualty Office said Lance Corporal William "Billy" Crouse and his bomb-sniffing dog were killed by an explosive device in Afghanistan on Tuesday. Crouse attended Clinton High School and played football for the Red Devils. Flags were flying at half-staff in downtown Clinton on Wednesday. Crouse, 22, was assigned to the 1st Battalion 10th Marines. He was born in Indiana and moved to Clinton with his father in the '90s. Billy, who is predeceased by his father, is survived by his mother, Nancy Siders of Ft. Wayne, Ind. He also leaves behind many friends and his father's girlfriend in the Laurens County area. Military officials said funeral arrangements have not been finalized, but he will be buried in Indiana and friends are organizing a memorial service in Clinton. Condolences can be sent to Mrs. Siders and Family at 8623 Deer Brooke Place, Ft. Wayne, IN 46825

December 23, 2010

South Carolina's Gov. Mark Sanford has been spreading [cash](#) to charities. Sanford said he has donated \$250,000 in excess campaign cash to the Coastal Community Foundation in Charleston. In October Sanford had more than \$1 million left in his gubernatorial campaign account. The money can only be spent on another state campaign or given to a charity or to the state. Sanford said in an interview last week that he hopes the donation ends up helping in land [conservation](#). That's been a key quality-of-life issue for him during his two terms. He's not alone among governors giving cash to charity. West Virginia's Joe Manchin gave \$740,000 to charities last year. He left office in November after winning a U.S. Senate seat